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Daily Report
Latin America

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Central America Urges EC To Lift Banana Restrictions

PA0910000693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1733 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Report by correspondent Jose Luis Castillejos]

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Central America appealed today to the European Community's (EC) "goodwill" in asking that group to lift restrictions on bananas, which would create millions in losses in exports to Europe. Losses could amount to $1 billion in the next three years.

During a meeting in Guatemala City between Central American and EC representatives, the former insisted that the imposition of quotas imposed since July would leave Latin American companies defenseless in relation to their European counterparts.

Ricardo Alvarenga, Honduran commercial attache in Guatemala, told NOTIMEX that the region's economy will suffer a heavy blow if European restrictions are not lifted. The restrictions will leave 170,000 jobless in the short term.

The Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) said that this decision will create serious social and economic problems in Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Ecuador, and Mexico. Family incomes will decrease, and 35,000 hectares will be abandoned. As a result, investments will be lost.

Banana producers have insisted that import reductions seek to artificially increase sale prices on the European domestic market to boost the competitiveness of a product that is more expensive and of inferior quality. This EC policy affects the Central American product although it is cheaper and of higher quality.

The Central American governments have underscored that the restrictions infringe the principles of equity and justice by granting European companies the exclusive right to own export licenses. Some of these companies had never traded Latin American bananas. The EC has ignored all protests against protectionism in levying a 20 percent tariff on Latin American banana imports.

The EC revealed the marketing guidelines in force since July for banana imports within its borders. It established an import quota of 2 million tons of Latin American fruit from the so-called "dollar zone." This measure will allow the EC to defend its internal market, which amounts to 990,000 tons that come from the Canary Islands and former colonies in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. The 2 million ton quota on Latin American producers represents 60 percent of EC consumption.

"This system is unfair because it leaves our countries defenseless," the Honduran commercial attache has said .

Vittorino Alloco, EC ambassador to Central America, recently rejected the granting of preferential treatment to former colonies and the discrimination against Latin American agricultural products. The diplomat maintained that every five years the EC grants a $40 billion subsidy to 69 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) based on the 1989 Lome IV Convention, which also guarantees preferential treatment for trade in these regions. He added that the EC this year will grant $350 million in aid to Latin America. "Latin America cannot complain about bad treatment because its agricultural products, except bananas, pay no customs duties," said the European representative. The aid will be allocated to cooperation, food, and technical projects, Mr. Alloco pointed out. He added that although aid for the Latin American continent is apparently minimal, there is resource compensation. He emphasized that Latin America has exaggerated the repercussions of the European Common Market. Any increase in banana consumption will benefit the countries from the dollar zone first, he added. He said that during the last decade, the EC granted aid amounting to more than $1 billion to the region, which means "there is no discrimination against" or preferential treatment of the ACP.

The EC is Central America's second largest commercial partner, with a $300 million trade surplus.

G-3 Holds Simultaneous Talks in Caracas, Mexico

PA1010152993 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 6 Oct 93 p 2-9

[Text] The Group of Three [G-3] started simultaneous rounds of technical talks in Mexico City and Caracas on 5 October for the creation of a free-trade zone. The Foreign Trade Institute has reported that Colombian, Mexican, and Venezuelan technicians are discussing two basic aspects, the Liberation Program and the text of the Standard of Origins.

It has been reported that the Liberation Program deals with custom practices and noncustom-related measures necessary to unify and develop free trade. The Standard of Origins will be negotiated by the productive sectors, including the chemical and metalworking sectors. In Mexico, the G-3 delegates are negotiating the subjects that deal with the service, agricultural, and intellectual property sectors.

Both the Mexico City and Caracas technical meetings aim to improve the texts under negotiation. Any remaining unclear passages and differences of viewpoints will be taken to the top-level meeting to be held on Thursday and Friday in Caraballeda, with the participation of the three countries' titular and alternate negotiators.

At this level, Colombia will be represented by Juan Jose Echavarria and Felipe Jaramillo; Mexico, by Commerce Secretary Herminio Blanco and Jesus Flores Ayala; and Venezuela, by Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza, minister-president of the Foreign Trade Institute [ICE], and Rodrigo Ayala, ICE director general.

CA Council Restricts 4 Products From Free-Trade Status

PA0810191193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p 109

[Text] Guatemalan Deputy Economy Minister Guillermo Rodriguez announced that the Central American Executive Council, which is made up of the area's deputy economy ministers, agreed yesterday to include four products on the list of merchandise subject to custom tariffs and not included as part of free-trade practices throughout the region. Deputy Rodriguez is also playing host to the Central American Executive Council.

The agreement was reached within the framework of the First Meeting of the Central American Executive Council (after not meeting for nearly 20 years). The objective of this meeting was in accordance with the decision adopted by the Central American presidents to reduce, as much as possible, the number of products restricted to free trade included in Annex "A" of the of Central American General Economic Integration Treaty.

The products that will remain on the list include crude oil by-products, flour, sugar, and coffee beans. According to Rodriguez, flour was included on the list because its basic component, wheat, receives different treatment in each of the countries, which does not allow unrestricted marketing practices. In the case of sugar and coffee, these products were included on the list because they were considered to be very sensitive to the economies of all countries of the region. With respect to crude oil by-products, Rodriguez indicated that Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador agreed to exclude the marketing of asphalt between the three countries.

Likewise, it was disclosed that bilateral agreements were reached between the countries gathered at the meeting and include a list of five products considered as restricted: matches in the case of Nicaragua and Costa Rica; aged alcohol beverages for some of the countries, and denatured ethyl alcohol, tobacco, and cigarettes.

With respect to the two last products, Costa Rica has promised to eliminate all restrictions in a five year period.

The Guatemalan deputy minister added that the Executive Council members agreed to constantly evaluate the Annex "A" list with the goal of continuing to eliminate products not benefited by free trade status.

Other issues discussed include the position to be adopted by the isthmus countries on the Uruguay Round of talks, with the goal of making a joint proposal, and analyzing negotiations with Colombia. In addition, the Executive Council also discussed the possibility of coordinated efforts with Costa Rica with respect to negotiations initiated by the CA-4 [Central American Group of Four] with Mexico.

Cuba

Madrid EFE Kills Robaina Report Criticizing Nunciature

PA1210052493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0240 GMT on 12 October transmits a service message killing this item as follows: "Information XA1228 (CUBA-VATICAN: ROBAINA CRITICIZES VATICAN FOR PASTORAL PUBLICATION), dated in Havana, reporting statements by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to PRENSA LATINA NEWS AGENCY is hereby annulled. PRENSA LATINA has annulled 'until further notice' the note, which includes statements given by Robaina in New York and from which EFE prepared its version, quoting the official Cuban news agency."]

[Text] Havana, 11 Oct (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said today, Monday, that the Apostolic Nunciature in Cuba has "disregarded the hand we offered," even though he had personally started a dialogue process with the nuncio. In statements made in New York to a group of Cubans residing in the United States and reported by PRENSA LATINA, Robaina stated: "We told the nuncio how many things we could do together and along what paths we could advance. We also warned him, however, about the dangers involved if a document appeared trying to separate us at a time when the country needs to unite more than ever," he added.

The minister implicitly referred to the controversial pastoral letter which was released approximately one month ago by the Cuban Episcopate and which provoked irate criticism from the official media and created noticeable tension in relations between the church and the state.

This is the first time a high-ranking official in Fidel Castro's government attributes the responsibility of the pastoral publication to the Vatican, although Cuban bishops have stated the initiative was exclusively theirs.

Robaina said that since he assumed the Foreign Ministry in March, he has held various "sufficiently ample and frank" talks with the Apostolic Nuncio in Havana. According to the Cuban foreign minister, the bishops' document, in which they requested political reforms and advocated a dialogue "among all the Cubans" inside and outside the island, "irritated an important part of the population."

According to the PRENSA LATINA version, Robaina announced to the group that a meeting between Cubans residing abroad and Cubans on the island is being prepared, and it should take place in Havana during the second half of 1994.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Chinese Nuclear Test

FL0910122393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Ministry of Foreign Relations statement]

[Text] The People's Republic of China has announced that it conducted an underground nuclear test on 5 October. At the same time, the PRC also reiterated its firm position in favor of a total prohibition of such tests and of the complete destruction of nuclear weapons, as well as its promise to never be the first to use this type of weapon.

It is a well-known fact that the world's principal nuclear powers, among which China is not, have gigantic atomic arsenals and have conducted hundreds of tests to perfect and expand them.

The Cuban Government considers that, in conducting this test, the Chinese Government is making a sovereign decision, without violating the international obligations to which it has subscribed.

Cuba's position on disarmament is categoric and staunch: We are in favor of a general and complete disarmament, beginning with the destruction of all nuclear weapons.

Recently, and under Cuba's presidency, the disarmament conference agreed to begin negotiations with a view to achieving a treaty totally prohibiting nuclear tests—a position that we firmly support. Until such a treaty has been signed, we consider it unacceptable for certain powers to try to impose, hegemonically, their opinions regarding this matter on other countries. Such behavior that is discriminatory and unacceptable in international relations.

Juragua Nuclear Plant Maintenance Moving 'Satisfactorily'

FL0810131293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Scheduled maintenance and conservation work at the Juragua Nuclear Plant in Cienfuegos is moving satisfactorily. Some 1,500 builders are working there.

Work Resumes

FL0910015893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] In Cienfuegos Province, arduous work is being carried out to preserve the work done on the Juragua nuclear power plant. Plans to preserve the vitality of the Juragua nuclear power plant were analyzed at a meeting conducted at the site. Builders and representatives from central organizations, and their counterparts at the provincial level, agreed in pointing out the seriousness and exacting nature of the work conducted for its conservation.

A tour of the project revealed the progress attained in creating conditions for continuation of the project to the extent that possibilities allow. The evaluation coincides with criteria set forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which closely monitors the preservation tasks of the Juragua nuclear power plant.

Central Committee member Pedro Miret, who chaired the meeting, commented that the results achieved in this task are proportionate to the preparation, professionalism, and qualifications of the workers on this project. When he says they are the most valuable resource available, he is also including the hundreds of engineers, technicians, and qualified workers who were temporarily transferred to prioritized projects in other provinces of the country. All of them comprise the potential that will allow resumption of the project as soon as the problems that determined its interruption are solved.

Power Plants Suffer Breakdowns 'Almost Simultaneously'

FL0910133293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Electric Union announces that since 7 October, because of breakdowns that have occurred almost simultaneously at different thermoelectric plants in the nation, there have been power outages above and beyond those scheduled, nationwide. The breakdowns that have occurred at the Maximo Gomez plant in Mariel, the Antonio Maceo plant, the Rente plant, the Santiago de Cuba plant, and the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes plant in Cienfuegos are being repaired, with workers working around the clock. It is hoped that the situation can be brought back to normal sometime between 9 October and 10 October, so that only the scheduled outages occur.

NOTIMEX Cites 'Official Sources'

PA1010152893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1758 GNT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Havana, 9 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Official sources reported today that severe power outages, which in some regions last more than 12 hours, have reappeared in Cuba as a result of damages in Cuba's three most important thermoelectric plants.

Electric Union, the state enterprise that manages the sector at the national level, has confirmed that power services have been suffering "unprogrammed" interruptions throughout the country since Thursday. The enterprise reported that damages in the Maximo Gomez, Antonio Maceo, and Carlos Manuel de Cespedes thermoelectric plants in Havana, Santiago de Cuba, and Cienfuegos, respectively, have been affecting the entire electricity system for the past 48 hours.

From 26 July to 26 August, a 30-day period, the country endured severe blackouts of more than 18 hours a day as a result of an absolute lack of fuel, the core of Cuba's current economic crisis. In the 169 municipalities of the island's 14 provinces, there have been power service interruptions of up to 20 hours. A lack of fuel has placed the national electricity system on the verge of collapse. The Cuban capital has been unilluminated and the authorities have been forced to make power cuts in priority sectors such as tourism.

The industrial sector, electricity generating plants, and the transport sector require 13 million tons of fuel annually but last year it had to do with only 6.1 million tons, and an additional 890,000 tons locally produced.

The power company has assured in an official communique that power service will be normalized in the next few days. Meanwhile, Havana municipalities yesterday endured lengthy periods without electricity.

Group of 187 U.S. Citizens Plans 'Illegal' Trip to Cuba

PA0810134993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] A group of 187 U.S. citizens of the Freedom to Travel [Libertad Para Viajar] campaign, coming from 25 states and ranging in ages from four to 87, will arrive next Sunday via Mexico. The group is made up of doctors, artists, small-scale businessmen, writers, and workers of various professions and occupations, who with this action risk facing a 10-year sentence and a $250,000 fine, since U.S. authorities regard their trip as illegal because of the embargo Washington has imposed on Cuba for over 30 years.

In a telephone conversation with PRENSA LATINA, Medea Benjamin, a member of the group of travelers, said they seek several objectives with this project, including the right granted by the U.S. Constitution to move abroad and learn first-hand about the situation in Cuba.

Group Arrives

FL1110130293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Approximately 180 U.S. citizens from 25 states arrived in our country today to protest the U.S. blockade imposed on Cuba for more than 30 years. The group of U.S. citizens, made up of doctors, lawyers, businessmen, artists, etc., will protest federal restrictions that prohibit U.S. citizens from traveling to Cuba. With this action the group of U.S. citizens will reaffirm their constitutional right of traveling whereever they want. They face the possibility of 10 years in prison and a fine of $250,000. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Comments on Negotiations Regarding Prisoners

FL0910180693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The U.S. Department of Justice issued a press release on 29 September regarding an alleged agreement with Cuban authorities about the repatriation of prisoners of Cuban origin still in U.S. territory. Regarding this, a Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the press release in question reflects the American view of matters that are being discussed by the two parties, things on which specific agreement will have to be reached during the course of the negotiations that are under way on this matter.

Government Confirms Talks

PA1010015893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Oct 93

[From the "Evening Information Review"]

[Text] The Cuban Government has confirmed the holding of talks with U.S. officials for the deportation of prisoners of Cuban-origin in that country. Those prisoners left Cuba in 1980 from the Port of Mariel in Havana. A Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman told the press that this issue is the object of discussion between the two parties and must be agreed upon during the negotiations; therefore, he denied official U.S. reports that agreements have been reached.

The U.S. Justice Department reported on 28 September that Havana authorities had accepted, as an interim measure, those emigrants who are accused of having committed murders, rapes, robberies, and drug trafficking in U.S. territory. The Cuban Foreign Ministry stated that the note published by the Justice Department reflects the U.S. view on aspects that are being analyzed by the two parties and about which agreements must be reached.

Air Raid Alarm System Tested

PA1010001993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2258 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Havana, 9 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The alarm system used to warn the Cuban people of an air raid was activated today, as part of a land and air defense plan.

The whine of the sirens filled Havana at 1700, interrupting the Cuban capital's serenity for one minute.

The alarm system is sounded every month to test its effectiveness and to prompt the population to take the necessary preventive measures in case of an air raid from abroad.

The alarm signal was broadcast over local and national stations. Sirens and other alarm systems were used to cover the 14 Cuban provinces, the 169 municipalities, and the defense sites.

Fidel Castro's government conducts continuous military exercises along side the population to establish and ensure the defense system.

Cuban military leaders have not discarded the possibility of a U.S. invasion of their territory. According to the source, "the United States wants to start an armed conflict under any pretext."

Castro encouraged his people last month to close ranks around the revolution so that the United States will fail to find an excuse for a foreign "humanitarian intervention" against the island.

He added that the revolutionaries will never accept becoming another U.S. Government colony or being occupied by foreign troops. "There are enough revolutionaries and weapons to defend the fatherland," he said.

Robaina at UN: Strengthen Ties With Cuban Diaspora

FL1110230093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] At Cuba's UN mission, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina began a dialogue with representatives of Cuban natives living in the United States. At this meeting, which was attended by 150 Cubans, representing Cuban natives residing in Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, Massachussetts, California, New York, New Mexico, and other states, the foreign minster stressed that, more than a dialogue, this is an attempt to strengthen the links between our country and the Cuban community abroad. Robaina said that letting such a relationship be normal and fluid will open the way for concrete steps toward preparing for a meeting, to be held in Havana next year, between Cubans living abroad and Cubans on the island. The minister referred to the most blatant themes of the campaign against Cuba abroad, and stressed that the blockade is also directed at U.S. businessmen.

During another part of his talk with Cubans residing in the United States, Robaina discussed the need to clearly demonstrate at every forum the extent to which the concepts of freedom, human rights, and democracy have been manipulated in this world. Our foreign minister added: No one powerful is concerned about the numbers of illiterate men and women in the world, people incapable of reading or writing the words, "human rights." They are therefore unaware of how many human beings without rights exist.

Robaina announced that Cuba will invite some 15 or 20 Nobel Prize winners, who have nothing to do with socialism, to tour the island from one end to the other and give their opinion of the freedoms in our country.

The foreign minister also pointed out that the message from Cuba's bishops irritated a significant portion of the population because the bishops spoke in the name of all, while the majority of Catholics were not consulted on the issues addressed in the missive.

Deadline Set for Permission To Fly to Ponce Games

FL1110171593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the last few hours, the news of Cuba's possible absence from the 17th Central American and Caribbean games in Ponce, Puerto Rico, has been seen as an impact to that event. The disagreement between Havana and Washington threatens the athletic competitions which will be held, since the permission requested from the U.S. State department allowing Cuban athletes to fly directly to Puerto Rico has not been granted.

Cuban sports authorities have stated that if they do not receive an answer to their request by 14 October, they will decline to participate in the games. On 1 September, our country registered 900 people, of whom 550 are athletes who will participate in 31 events, in addition to journalists, federation officials, judges, and referees.

I also wanted to mention one more thing with regard to the costs of this trip. It would cost Cuba approximately $600 extra per person if they had to make a stop in Miami, worry about the transportation, and take extra flying time. Furthermore, these factors could also affect the quality and the endurance of the Cuban athletes. Therefore, it would be impossible or illogical to do it any way other than flying directly to the area of the competitions.

Charter Flights to Cuba To Begin Week of 10 Oct

PA0710204993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0242 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] San Jose, 6 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Costa Rican airlines Acori and Lacsa will begin charter flights to Cuba starting next week, after a 15-year suspension of air traffic between the two countries, it has been announced here officially.

Cuba and Costa Rica suspended relations following the expulsion of the Cuban regime from the OAS more than 30 years ago, although in the late 1970's commercial offices were opened for a short time in both capitals.

Civil aviation authorities rejected that the charter flights from Costa Rica to the Caribbean island entail the resumption of air traffic between Cuba and this country.

Central American diplomats considered this Wednesday that Costa Rica and other countries in the region could improve their relations with Cuba in the short term.

According to unofficial reports, a Costa Rican mission traveled to Cuba seeking to establish commercial contacts and a Cuban mission is here to observe the meat packaging and slaughterhouse facilities, with a view to undertaking trade in beef, pork, and poultry.

Juan Jose Echeverria, former Costan Rican government and public security minister, confirmed this Wednesday that he recently made some contacts in Cuba to establish commercial relations between the two nations.

According to Echeverria, there is a possibility to export other Costa Rican products like foodstuffs, rum, milk and its byproducts, vegetables, and soft drinks to the Caribbean island's market.

Lacsa and Acori charter flights pave the way for tourism exchange with only a card that will cost $20 or less, if purchased together with a package that includes hotel, meals, and tours of the island, the former official commented.

He indicated that the Cuban Government is offering a great opening to commercial relations in order to overcome the problems caused by the U.S. commercial blockade and worsened after the fall of socialism in the former Soviet Union and other countries in Eastern Europe.

Aviation Agreement Signed With Netherlands Antilles

FL0810014393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Today in Havana City, Cuba and the Netherlands Antilles signed a civil aviation agreement that establishes and regulates air traffic between the two countries. Division General Rogelio Acevedo, president of the Cuban Civil Aeronautical Institute, and Mr. (Henry Phillipec), in charge of business of the Netherlands Antilles Embassy, signed the agreement in the Foreign Ministry.

The document officially establishes air traffic, which has already been taking place since April, with a frequency of two flights per week by the (ARN) Airline, from Curacao to Havana, and vice versa. The agreement also includes airport services in Cuba, which were described as excellent by (Mr. Zieflec Francisco), director of the Netherlands Antillean Civil Aviation. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with this agreement, which creates a more solid foundation for trade between the two countries.

Castro Praises Bolivian Expressions of Solidarity

FL0710133993 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] In a letter published in La Paz on 6 October, Cuban President Fidel Castro reminisces on his visit, two months ago, to Bolivia. In the letter, he stresses the ties between the nations, ties sealed with the blood of the sons of the two peoples.

The letter was sent by Castro to the Bolivian Solidarity With Cuba Committee and expresses his determination to render homage to the outstanding explosion of popular support to the Cuban Revolution he witnessed during his stay in Bolivia on 5-9 August. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro points out in his letter that historic bilateral ties date back to Antonio Jose de Sucre's decision to fight for the freedom of Cuba and that these ties are sealed with the blood of the sons of the two peoples. Therefore, he expected all along to encounter a friendly welcome.

Radio Havana Notes Ecuadoran Call for End to 'Blockade'

PA0810141493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Ecuadoran National Congress President Samuel Bellettini has demanded in Quito the immediate suspension of the blockade the United States imposed on Cuba and described it as unfair, immoral, and senseless. The Ecuadoran lawmaker told the media there is no reason for a power such as the United States to try to economically smother a small country such as Cuba, only because the latter does not accept Washington's dictates. Bellettini signed a letter, along with a group of prominent Ecuadoran intellectuals, to be sent to U.S. President William Clinton. The letter states Cuba is a free country and nobody should meddle in its domestic policy, as it has the approval of the majority of the Cuban people.

Castro Bids Farewell To Quintana Roo Governor

FL0810131193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a farewell meeting with Engineer Mario Villanueva, governor of the Mexican state of Quintana Roo. Villanueva, who toured tourism, health, agriculture, and various other facilities, arrived in Cuba on 4 October at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

Villanueva stated it has been an honor to speak with Fidel, whom he described as a visionary and the most important leader in the world today. He also expressed confidence in the possibility of beginning cooperation for mutual support.

FAO Official Says Cooperation Totals $1.7 Million

FL0810153793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, is implementing 14 technical cooperation projects in Cuba. This is a sign of the excellent relations between FAO and Cuban authorities.

Augusto Simoes Lopes, the FAO representative in Cuba, has given details of the FAO cooperation during a news conference held to mark World Food Day, which will be commemorated on 16 October.

Simoes said that the projects, the cost of which exceeds $1.7 million, encompass several sectors. He added that FAO has conveyed to the Cuban authorities its desire to support the creation of the Basic Cooperative Production Units by supplying to the Cuban Government all available worldwide data on similar projects in other countries.

Alarcon, Others Attend Administration Councils Meeting

FL0810180893 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Politburo members Ricardo Alarcon, Carlos Lage, and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura presided over a meeting of presidents of provincial administration councils and of the Isle of Youth. The meeting was instrumental in dispelling doubts, in providing specific guidance, and in promoting the exchange of experiences on major ongoing programs and measures.

GRANMA reports today that the meeting, which was called by the secretariat of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, praised the program for construction of inexpensive housing, the progress report process, the implementation of innovative measures in agriculture, the fight against crime, and the provisions concerning self-employed workers.

The construction of low-cost housing was cited as a way to deal with the serious shortage of resources. These houses require a low supply of both construction material and energy and take advantage of the materials manufactured in every territory.

A report submitted during the meeting of provincial presidents of adminstration councils states that the goal was to build 11,300 houses, that 9,787 houses have been completed by the end of August, and that 20,816 were in various stages of construction [all figures as heard].

It has been noted that the most significant achievement was the degree of awareness as to how vital this response is. The real prospect of completing more houses this year than in any previous year was also extremely interesting.

In an evaluation of the first month of the progress report process, Alarcon said that it is generally going well, even though some of them were still held following the old practice of submitting proposals without first collectively analyzing and exchanging ideas on problems affecting the community, as well as without the participation of local administrative officials.

The reports submitted by the presidents of the provincial administration councils reveal a high percentage of attendance in meetings of delegates and focus on several common aspects such as the positive reactions from the people to the anticrime measures and their understanding of the shortages we are facing, all of which are reflected in the proposals made.

Because the presidents of administration councils have been following the process of creation of the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's], discussions on this topic centered on fine-tuning the policy. For instance, it was made clear that the UBPC's will not contradict the study-work principle that prevails in schools.

Some specifics were noted concerning contingents, and some special cases were mentioned in the cattle-raising sector such as the genetic units. Several presidents voiced concern about the need to find new ways of providing incentives to UBPC workers. Other topics of discussion dealt with financial regulations, the tax policy, and whether one may choose to join or not join the UBPC's.

GRANMA reports today that, on examining the anticrime measures, the provincial presidents of administration councils analyzed the enhancement of operational capabilities, the role of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System, the people's favorable reaction to and involvement in these measures, and the expeditiousness and rigorousness observed in judicial proceedings.

Some details have also been given about the impact of some crimes such as theft and slaughter of cattle, and on the steps taken to fight them. Special attention was devoted to economic crimes, which require that all workers participate in in-depth discussions of the subject in each place.

According to information available today, 19,091 people have registered to become self-employed workers and 6,505 of them have already received the appropriate licenses. A small percentage of this figure accounts for renewal of licenses.

In their analysis, the provincial presidents of administration councils have emphasized once again that those citizens who had registered earlier must register again. It has been reported that the inclusion of new trades is being considered, as well as further regulations, inspection and violations, and tax payments. The deadline for legalization of self-employed workers will be announced in the next few weeks.

PLO Representative Decries PLO-Israeli Accord

FL0810181893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Last month's signing in Washington of the PLO-Israeli accords has provoked diverse reactions in the Palestine community. In this regard, PLO representative (Mohamed Aldin Karim) stated:

[Begin recording, in Spanish] The accords do not represent any progress whatsoever in terms of Palestine interests. The accords make it easier for the imperialist bloc to implement its plans in the area. The imperialist plan is to eliminate the Palestine cause. The construction of the Palestine state is against their interests. This accord will kill off the so-called Palestinian cause. [end recording]

Politburo Members Chair Administrative Council Meeting

FL0910005593 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The secretariat of the Council of Ministers' Executive Committee held a meeting today for presidents of the administrative councils of the provinces and the Isle of Youth. The meeting was chaired by Politburo members Carlos Lage, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, and Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada. The meeting was characterized by ample debate, an exchange of experience, details on the training process, and answers to questions on important programs and measures that are being applied throughout the country.

Some of the topics discussed during the meeting were the construction of low-cost housing, the process of the assessment assemblies, and the participation of the population in the measures against crime and antisocial elements, as well as the creation and operation of the Basic Cooperative Production Units. During this important meeting, details on licenses for self-employed workers were also discussed.

Cuban PPG To Be Sold on Venezuelan Market

FL0910021793

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 8 October carries an interview, live or recorded, by journalist Lucy Gispert with Dr. (Carlos Mijares), a Venezuelan physician who is also on the board of directors of the Cuban-Venezuelan Institute of Friendship with Peoples. Gispert announces that (Mijares) "will talk to us about this latest, and for us tremendously important, news on the vaccine... [corrects herself] excuse me, I mean, on a Cuban medication that has just been approved by the Venezuelan scientific community, for sale in that country."

Dr. (Mijares) says: "The use of PPG [expansion unknown], or (Arteromixol), was recently approved in Venezuela. (Arteromixol) is the name the Cuban PPG will bear, commercially, in Venezuela. A meeting was held at the Caracas Hilton Hotel, in the presence of all the authorities, both Cuban and Venezuelan—the Cuban scientific community, the Venezuelan scientific community, representatives of various pharmaceutical companies, and Venezuelan physicians. At that meeting, and during the ceremony, PPG, or (Arteromixol), was introduced and officially validated and given its registration number by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for its use in Venezuela."

(Mijares) praises the product, noting that Venezuelan research results matched Cuban research results.

The reporter notes that PPG is also said to trigger sexual vitality, improve memory, lower the negative type of cholesterol, and cleanse, so to speak, veins and arteries, thus helping to prevent heart attacks.

(Mijares) says: "Yes, (Arteromixol), also known as (Polycosanol) or PPG, is a natural medication... a byproduct of sugarcane—it is a matter of mixed alcohols of high molecular weights that interact on the organism in a way that is conducive to lowering the undesireable kind of cholesterol."

Asked who in Venezuela is interested in PPG, Dr. (Mijares) explains that "a pharmaceutical company called Promed has been founded in Venezuela. Promed stands for Medicinal Products. Promed is the company that will take charge of marketing (Arteromixol) in Venezuela."

He adds: "It is important for the Venezuelan public—Venezuela's people, physicians, and researchers—when they look into (Arteromixol), or (Polycosanol), to address themselves to Promed and use the product that has the registration number assigned to (Arteromixol) by the Venezuelan Ministry of Health." Dr. Mijares points out, in this connection and in light of the counterfeiting of medicines that occurs in the world, that "it has been said that certain people are interested in falsifying medicines. Thus, it is important that the PPG, or (Arteromixol), or (Polycosanol), be purchased from Venezuela's official pharmacy. The product is currently to be found at Venezuela's official pharmacy, with its registration number assigned by our government, by our Public Health Ministry. That is how it should be obtained, and that is how it should be used."

Dr. Mijares says he hopes Venezuelan physicians and scientists will try this product, study it, conduct field studies with it, and continue discovering, as well as demonstrating, what a good product it is.

Agriculture Minister Positive About UBPC Progress

FL0910022393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] During a tour of Ciego de Avila, Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan Morales, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, stated that the creation of Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's] throughout the country are developing successfully. Jordan pointed out that in October, 400 units of this type will be created, out of the more than 2,600 units that the agricultural branch should have nationwide.

[Begin recording] The process is being developed with a great deal of enthusiasm and motivation. We have been emphasizing quite a bit the need for quality and the depth of this process. In other words, we are not talking about a simple change of structure. There are [as heard] deep changes in concepts. It is necessary for the administrative directives, especially the enterprises and the directorates of these UBPC's, to prepare themselves to fulfill their basic mission: to increase production with fewer expenses and a lower production cost. [end recording]

In his answer to a question on whether these associations can be created in agricultural contingents, Jordan stated:

[Begin recording] Yes. We are analyzing the contingents as well. We could say to the contingents that all the comrades who wish to join can help form the UBPC's. There are areas where we will obviously have to evaluate the development of the housing program because there are many contingents where we have a commitment to build houses with the workers. To the extent that these houses are built, the workers will have priority in joining the UBPC's. [end recording]

Torres Urges 'Discipline' in Sugar Harvest Preparations

FL0910143793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres has called on everyone to make the sugar harvest a battle of the entire people. Torres made the closing speech at the analysis meeting held in preparation for the next sugar harvest in Ciego de Avila Province. Torres, who is also a member of the Politburo, said that the search for alternatives with a view to effecting a short and efficient sugar harvest is the fundamental premise of the current moment, given the conditions of the plantations and the industry in this province. He said that it is necessary to recapture technical prestige in the complexes, and urged everyone to win the preparations battle through determination, discipline, and efficiency.

At this meeting with Ciego de Avila Province sugar producers the minister acknowledged the work of the laborers and leaders of the Ciro Redondo Complex, who are now working long days to guarantee that the repairs and investments that will allow the mill to start work on the scheduled date are effected in time.

Commentator Foresees Less Cane in 1993-94 Harvest

FL0810153993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Commentary by Diosdado Maso]

[Text] The sugar harvest will be starting approximately 40 days from now. It would be interesting to point out some details about this harvest. Our previous harvest was the lowest in the past 30 years, and this coming harvest will not be very high, either. It is important to note this because, in addition to the difficulties we have experienced as a result of the fuel shortage problem, there has been a terrible drought. I am saying that there has been because there is still drought in some areas of Las Tunas Province, for instance.

A very curious thing is happening in the Antonio Guiteras sugar mill in the northern part of Las Tunas Province. It is raining in the southern portion of the northern region; but in the northern portion of the northern region, they had to start cutting the cane because, otherwise, everything would have been lost. A severe drought has affected the area and prevented recovery of the cane plants. It is a heavy blow for the plants to spend 100 days without recovering during their period of primary growth.

Touring the countryside, I sometimes thought that instead of looking at a cane field I was looking at shrub-covered grazing land, because the cane plants are very small. This means that we will not have more cane than we had last year; we are going to have less.

This is probably going to happen despite the great effort made to bring about a recovery in the cane sector. It is true that we have planted more cane, that the people have taken better care of the cane fields, that a greater cleaning effort has been made; but it is equally true that we have had less fuel, less fertilizer, and less rain. There can be no magic here.

This will be a reduced harvest, which will cause some sugar mills to remain idle, in accordance with an important strategy to be implemented by the Ministry of the Sugar Industry. Those mills that stand idle will follow a plan to repair and build workers' living quarters and to make adjustments in their facilities; they will have much more time for these undertakings, so that they may be adequately prepared to mill the cane and so that there may be better agroindustrial conditions and better conditions for the workers.

The harvest should start by the end of the first half of November in those sugar mills which, as a result of similar causes, last year did not have enough fuel and still have cane left from the previous harvest. It is with the leftover cane—which should be about 20-24 months old—that they will start the 1993-94 harvest. With its characteristics, the leftover cane appears to be the right type with which to start the new harvest. Thus, we would be giving time to our new crops.

GRANMA reported today that sowing is far behind schedule, primarily because of the drought. Sugarcane cannot be planted in dry land, because it will not grow. If there is water, but no fuel...[changes thought] thus, we will have a difficult harvest. This does not pose a problem to the agroindustrial sector alone, but to the entire Cuban people. We must all do everything we can to contribute, by working with greater quality and efficiency, to producing, from a smaller amount of cane, at least an equal or higher amount of sugar than last year.

Castro Addresses First UBPC in Havana Province

FL1110001793 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] A few hours ago, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attended the creation of the first Basic Cooperative Production Unit [UBPC] of mixed crops in Havana Province.

[Begin Castro recording] I hope all of you, the members of this UBPC, take on these tasks with a great sense of honor and responsibility and that this first UBPC will be an example; that the success and experience you obtain can serve as encouragement and experience to the rest of the UBPC's. [words indistinct] very realistic, which we have done in organizing the agriculture.

We have tried to transmit the best experiences of the Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives [CPA] to this concept, without forgetting the great achievements obtained by the enterprises. I am sure that these great plans made by the country for the agriculture sector would not have been possible without the efforts of the state enterprises.

The great dairy and farming plans like the [words indistinct] like those in Camaguey or Jaguey and many others. Microjet irrigation of hundreds of caballerias of plantains could only be accomplished under those organizational conditions.

But we are faced by the special period, which has made everything more difficult. There was a great shortage of resources and it was important that each man make an even greater effort. It was necessary to end the people's exodus from the countryside to the city. We had to find a solution to the constant mobilizations.

That is why [word indistinct] with a deep sense of reality, and after profoundly analyzing and considering a number of factors, the leadership of the party and government decided to adopt this form of organization, which links workers to the land and their production. It makes them owners of the production and of the means of production, which is a motivation to work. Therefore, the socialist form is applied, with each one receiving according to his work.

With all these measures, we believe that during exceptional times such as these, our agriculture should adapt more to reality in its organization, even though the changes being made are definitive. This is not a temporary organization. It is a permanent organization.

But, as I told the journalists, we must follow up on all good ideas in order to advance and meet goals. That is why we must follow up on this experience. [end recording]

After departing with leaders and workers of the Simon Rodriguez UBPC, the commander in chief conversed with the national press present at the ceremony.

[Begin Castro recording] They will have the same advantages as the cooperatives. They have the problem of self sufficiency, which has already been organized. They have good equipment and everything they need. The only difference is that the others contributed the land. These did not contribute the land.

The first results seemed very good. From the moment that the phenomenon of the contingents... [changes thought] The majority of the contingents from the capital would like to be in the UBPC's. This demonstrates that this is a recovery, or the inverse of what had been happening: everyone wanted to leave the countryside to go to the cities. Now it is reversed. This movement is promoting the return from the cities to the countryside.

They have very capable cadres of technicians and personnel, which the cooperatives did not have. Now, we need to apply the work techniques that the best CPA's were using, because not all the CPA's work in an efficient manner. But most of the CPA's are efficient and most of the them are excellent. They have another concept of the economy. We would like the UBPC's to have the same concept of the economy.

This includes the reality, psychology, idiosyncrasy, and organization of agricultural production and the principle of remuneration according to work: a socialist principle. Maybe the state enterprises were more advanced than the UBPC's, but the UBPC's are more realistic. This is the conclusion we reached. [end recording]

Sugar Industry Ministry Speaks

FL1210031693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The process of forming the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC] in the cane sector continues. The cane sector UBPC formed at the El Cedro cane camp [batey] in Ciro Redondo Municipality, Ciego de Avila Province, bears the name "Ernesto 'Che' Guevara." In February 1963, very near the place, in the La Norma area, the heroic guerrilla participated in tests on the first canecutting machines. Hence the reason that for these workers, their daily work is linked to this historic event. This is one of the 1,500 UBPC's to be formed in Cuba in cane agriculture.

This UBPC's unanimously elected president, Orlando Garcia, announced, as immediate tasks for the work group, pushing the weeding of the cane, priority attention to the machinery, and the planting of several crops that will make possible an increase in food self-sufficiency for the workers and their relatives.

Following the signing of the document forming the UBPC, Comrade Nelson Torres, minister of the Sugar Industry, urged the members of this new economic structure to use the available resources rationally and to wage the struggle to increase cane production.

[Begin recording] And that is the challenge for all us Cubans: to produce a far greater volume of cane with fewer resources. The country will gradually pull out of the special period to the extent that we can meet that challenge. And it is we, the nation's men, on whose shoulders lies the responsibility of pulling the country out of the special period as quickly as possible. And this work group has today expressed that desire to really work for all Cubans and for the entire society. [end recording]

Robaina Attends Solidarity Demonstration in Harlem

FL1110011893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina attended a demonstration in Harlem, New York, in support of Cuba and against the U.S. blockade of that country. Approximately 1,000 people participated. The demonstration began at African Square in front of the historic (Teresa) Hotel, where Fidel and Afro-American leader Malcolm X had met.

During the ceremony, Robaina expressed appreciation for the solidarity demonstrated by the residents of Harlem and by Reverend Lucius Walker, who announced preparations for a third caravan of humanitarian aid to the island.

Criminal, Judicial Action Reported 4 Oct-9 Oct

FL1110181793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on criminal activity and related judicial actions in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 4 October and 9 October.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 4 October reports that three people were arrested after an informant told police that a driver for El Cotorro dairy complex had loaded 360 65-kg bags of powdered milk on his truck at a Havana port but offloaded 60 at his home. Accomplices at the dairy facility falsely receipted the full shipment. Estimated black market value of the diverted milk is 132,000 pesos.

Radio Progreso at 1100 GMT on 5 October features a report by a judicial reporter stressing that any public official who refuses to provide a service or aid judicial authorities or individuals might incur the charge of refusing to provide aid, which could result in imprisonment or jail for aiding and abetting against the national interest or an individual's needs.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 5 October reports on a scheme used by former convict Augusto Hernandez on 26 August to take four metric tons of imported corn out of a mill. The report says that, acting in complicity with Armando Veliz Mendoza and other people, Hernandez took the corn and sold it; that the economic loss caused to the country by this act is estimated at 2,892 pesos; and that the two main defendants in this case are in prison and will stand trial on charges of forgery of documents, bribing, and fraud.

Radio Progreso at 1100 GMT on 6 October reports that Rafael Gonzalez Cani has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for theft with violence. Gonzalez, who has a criminal record, placed a choke hold on a woman in a street in La Lisa Municipality and ripped a gold chain from her before running away. This shows that our police work with speed and efficiency to capture criminals and that the judicial bodies lay the full weight of the law on thenm.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 6 October reports that individuals knowingly took rotten flour from a garbage dump, then fashioned it into pastries that were sold to the populace. They caused food poisoning in 20 people in La Ata neighborhood in Baracoa.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 9 October reports that 10 defendants were sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to 10 years, and another three to big fines, for having taken 645 cases of tomato puree, each containing six one-gallon cans.

Commentary Notes International Rejection of Blockade

FL1110202593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] U.S. citizens understand more each day that the U.S. blockade of Cuba is inhumane and illegal, not only for our country, but for the U.S. people as well. Just last week we saw two new samples of this.

In Santiago de Chile, the assembly of the National Union of Scientific Societies harshly criticized the U.S. blockade of Cuba and called for an end to the prohibition of traveling to Cuba, which affects U.S. scientists. This policy by U.S. authorities is part of the blockade against Cuba and is obviously offensive to U.S. scientists, in humane and legal contexts, as well as professionally. Obviously, science is a field in which Cuba and the United States could establish cooperative relations, which would be mutually advantageous for the two countries .

The other demonstration is the arrival of the 180 U.S. citizens, who have traveled to Cuba to defend their right to travel to any nation in the world. It is a very courageous gesture because they face the risk of eventually being sentenced to up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to $250,000. We reiterate: This is just for traveling to Cuba. Can there be anything as uncivilized and unjustified as this?

But, there is more. As we have pointed out in the past, the U.S. blockade is depriving tens of thousands of U.S. citizens from enjoying the cleanest and safest tourism in the world; it is depriving U.S. businessmen of advantageous investments; it is depriving U.S. affiliates abroad of trading great volumes of products that Cuba sells in other parts of the world, which are valued at between $1.3 billion and $2 billion; and it is depriving U.S. citizens of benefiting from the unique developments Cuba has achieved in the medical field. It is unnecessary to remind Cubans of what it deprives us of.

The entire world has noticed, rejected, and called for an end to this irrationality. The U.S. people, specifically, have now strongly joined this movement. The blockade is not the best thing for either Cuba or the United States. It is beneficial only to those who build a political career and a fortune at its expense. Will the U.S. people allow it to last forever? We believe that is unlikely.

Haiti

Shooting, Beating Incidents Marked 7 Oct Strike

FL0810172393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The strike called on 7 October by FRAPH, Revolutionary Front For Haitian Advancement and Progress, won the bet by paralyzing activities in Port-au-Prince and basically throughout the country: no public transport, no business, no public administrative actions. The strike was total in Port-au-Prince and the metropolitan area, where the population was in hiding on Thursday. It is difficult to say that the FRAPH watchword was followed; rather, it was respected because of the intimidation, attacks, and other incidents that marked this 7 October.

The FRAPH strike had an effect on interurban and interregional traffic as well as on international communications in Port-au-Prince. Tap-taps [mini buses], taxis, and trucks were absent from the highways to and from Port-au-Prince, which permitted the organizers to say that the strike succeeded by 200 percent.

Regarding the facts that marked the day, it should be pointed out that cases of intimidation were reported in some neighborhoods where pedestrians were threatened at gunpoint and forced to go home. The few taxis and buses attempting to use the roads had to go back under the threats of armed civilians. Those are observations from journalists.

Other incidents occurred in Petionville where a group shot automatic gunfire into the air, provoking panic in the market. Teargas was also reportedly used to disperse the small vendors who had displayed their goods. In Tomassin 30, in Pelerins, shots were fired to scatter vendors who gathered in the sales areas. Shots were also heard in Carrefour Feuille, Cent-Fils, etc. In Poste Marchand, unidentified individuals used sticks and whips to beat retailers. In Carrefour, particularly on the South road, some incidents were reported that our team could not verify.

FRAPH Denies Violence

FL0810221393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The organizers of the strike quickly rejected the accusations made by Prime Minister Malval. We are not terrorists, they said:

[Begin recording in Creole] [Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress, FRAPH, representative] I am thanking the population, the public drivers union, and the employees of the public administration who respected the strike because it shows that public opinion has become sensitive to the demands that FRAPH is making. These include: saying no to occupation, a government of concord, release of the country, and national reconciliation and union of all Haitians. To that effect, I believe the strike was complied with 100 percent, and as announced, it was a peaceful strike. In fact, we noticed none of the incidents that might have taken place in the past.

I say to Prime Minister Malval that I understand that he feels hurt; that he was not aware when he came in as prime minister that another force existed in the country, which includes young professionals who have decided to move the country forward.

If I were in his position, I would be equally touched. It is normal for him to react the way he has. First of all, I can say that Malval is not an enemy because we have a common mother, which is Haiti. Therefore, we are supposed to sit together with Mr. Malval and talk. We cannot be cursing one another while advocating reconciliation.

In this respect, I can denounce some unfair maneuvers: To send terrorists to commit acts of repression, and then accuse FRAPH, is very unfair. No one can say that all the stores that were closed throughout the country were closed because of threats. It is a national awareness showing that lavalas, macoutes, MDN-ists [Mobilization for National Development], MIDH-ists [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], all the political sectors today, all the businessmen with a political leaning, decided to say no to Caputo, no to Malval. We do not want foreigners to invade Haiti.

[Reporter Jean] Mr. Constant, the prime minister said he was ready to negotiate with other sectors. However, he does not wish to negotiate under pressure, nor with violence. Are you in FRAPH ready to answer the government's call to sit and talk, and ask it to give up the violence, the terrorist acts, of which the government accused FRAPH?

[FRAPH representative] That is exactly right. I believe that so long as the prime minister does not correct this accusation because if he takes a look... [rephrases] I would like the prime minister to go out into the streets, because no one tells him—should come out into the streets to count how many car windows were broken, how many people were injured, how many stores were closed, how many people were pressured to close their stores. From 6 o'clock in the morning yesterday, the strike was followed in Jacmel and other cities. Even now, the prime minister cannot prove that violence was committed by FRAPH members or supporters. [end recording]

FRAPH Demonstrates for Replacement of Caputo

FL0810205893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] A demonstration was held today by the Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress [FRAPH] to demand the departure of international mediator in the Haitian crisis, Dante Caputo. The Front declares that if the accords are not respected, General Raoul Cedras, Army commander in chief, will not resign. Our reporter Edner Jean reports live:

[Jean] The demonstration continues through the Port-au-Prince streets. The demonstrators just stopped in front of the U.S. Consulate where the principal leader and coordinater of FRAPH again posed an invitation for American, rather than Canadian and French citizens, to come to the country, and for the Americans to immediately send an emissary to replace Dante Caputo. FRAPH this time stated that they themselves do not wish to participate in the concord government of Robert Malval, but that they simply want the government to make whatever reforms are within its power. Let us listen to statements by Jodel Chambelain, FRAPH coordinator general:

[Begin recording in Creole] [Chambelain] ... and his spokesman, to send a mediator who is lucid, who can come and sit around a table with us, with all the political sectors in the country, and with the Haitian people, because we will not sit under the table anymore.

[Unidentified speaker] Down with Caputo! [applause]

[Chambelain] When we say that negotiations must be held aboveboard, not under the table anymore, it means that negotiations must be held face to face with the people. Other sectors representing the people must sit on the people's side, around the table. We in FRAPH do not need a job in any government. [end recording]

[Jean] It should be pointed out that no incident has been observed so far in this demonstration, which is being closely watched by detachments of the Port-au-Prince Police. The demonstrators also asked Gen. Cedras not to resign so long as the Governors Island Accord is not respected.

Gen. Cedras Responds to Charge by Minister Beliotte

FL0810174893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] General Raoul Cedras is asking the Ministry of National Defense to honor its commitments toward the entire Army, which had been subjected to assaults even before 1986. In a letter replying to Minister Beliotte, Gen. Cedras, head of the Haitian Army, justifies the participation of the Army General Staff in the ceremony reopening the judicial session, as its desire strictly to observe the provisions of the Constitution regarding the preservation of the institutions of the Republic. The period of blind obedience to a president or his henchmen has gone. The 1987 Constitution has banished the viewpoint that you experienced in the Army, Gen. Cedras writes to Minister Beliotte. Here is the content of the letter:

Mr. Minister General:

In reading your MDNBM [expansion unknown] fiscal year 93-94 letter [as heard] No. 069 dated 6 October 93, the Armed Forces note that the general increasingly gives way to the minister who does not bother—we do not know for what unavowed purposes—to consult the fundamental charter of the Republic, the general regulations of the Armed Forces, and finally the goodwill pact that is the Governors Island agreement. The Army admits that you are concerned about the spirit, although ignoring the letter, of the Constitution. It understands that you, a general who became a minister, have set aside—for the purpose at hand—regulations that should be your compass throughout your life, for a retired military man is always a military man. It cannot, however, believe that you cannot manage to place the Governors Island agreement within its context of total appeasement, of essential reinforcement of institutions already so enfeebled, and finally of prelude to the establishment of a state of law.

The Army understands now, and only now, the meaning of your letter of 1 October 1993 asking it to inform all members of the Armed Forces of the content and terms of the Governors Island agreement. It hereby confesses that it erred in not having informed the members of this reserve of which you are part. A copy of this agreement is herewith forwarded to you.

In the meantime, the Armed Forces think it important to raise the debate to a higher level, in the higher interests of the nation, by laying down, once and for all, the great principles of the exercise of national sovereignty and the independence of the three powers established by Articles 58 to 60.2 of the Constitution.

It is finally time to inventory the true problems of this country. [the Army] will not (?trouble itself about) the problem of a ministry lacking organic law. It will not pay too much attention to the behavior of the current command that—in contrast with others in the past—is assuming all its responsibilities. It will not point out the manipulations of the clear terms of an agreement, manipulations which—as we said recently—make this agreement the key that opens all doors, including those of the country. It asserts that its participation in a ceremony, participation that you labeled support to an act of rebellion toward an established government, was imposed by the strict observance of the provisions of the Constitution for the durability of the institutions of our Republic.

It will not brandish the very explicit articles of the Constitution regarding the public forces. It will not point out the offhand form of expression of an supervisory administrative organ vis-a-vis an institution in the service not of the government, but of the state only. General, this period that you experienced within the Army has passed by. The 1987 Constitution banished the time of blind obedience to a president or to his henchmen who were reigning over certain regions of the country, such as Artibonite, under your command.

Gen. Cedras continues: Unlike you, it will not lean on the Governors Island agreement which, having been actually inspired by a legislative mandate in strict respect of the Constitution, is only an instrument for the preservation of the political future of the Armed Forces. Has it not made the commitment to the peaceful transition process despite all sorts of violations and provocations?

Mr. Minister General, instead of your endless letters claiming to be polemic and insulting, it urges you to work so that the ministry you are leading may have the commitments toward the entire Army, which—as you should know, better than anyone else—has been subjected to assault since even before 1986 and which is, nevertheless, determined to fulfill its constitutional mission and to contribute to the irreversible establishment of Haitian democracy from our history, our morals, our customs, and our traditions. It intends to work toward a true and unequivocal return to ultimate constitutional order in Haiti, whether you like or not.

The Armed Forces hope you will take advantage of these remarks to strengthen the ties that should necessarily exist between the official in the third-ranking position of national defense, under Article 159.1 of the Constitution, and the most important institution forming a part of the concept of national defense.

Sincerely yours, Raoul Cedras, Lieutenant General, commander in chief.

Cedras Says Armed Forces Not in Rebellion

PA1110005993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 10 Oct (AFP)—Army chief General Raoul Cedras has made public a letter addressed to Defense Minister Jean Beliotte, a retired general, "stating that" the Armed Forces have not "rebelled" against the "established government."

"Our participation" in the ceremony to reopen the courts, Gen. Cedras wrote to the government, "was dictated by a strict respect for the provisions of the Constitution which ensure the perpetuity of republican institutions."

The Malval administration had reproached the Armed Forces commander in chief for "breaking the rules" when he attended in the company of his staff this ceremony, which was presided over by Judge Emile Jonassaint, who was retired by the government.

Jonassaint, who was brought out of retirement and appointed Court of Appeals judge by "de facto" President Joseph Nerette, had rebelled against the Malval administration's decision to retire him again.

The Armed Forces committed themselves "to supporting the peaceful transition process despite violations and provocations of all sorts." They aim to achieve a real and unequivocal restoration of constitutional order in Haiti "by all means," Gen. Cedras wrote.

Addressing the defense minister directly, the Army chief wrote: "The period that you knew" within the Army is over. The 1987 Constitution eliminated blind obedience of the president or his "chieftains," who ruled in certain regions of the country such as Artibonite (in the north), "where you served as commander."

Malval Reiterates Commitment for International Assistance

PA1010234893 Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 10 Oct (AFP)—Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval announced in Port-au-Prince on Sunday the signature of the "terms of reference" [terminos de referencia] of the Mission for Assistance in Haiti (Minuha) with UN special envoy Dante Caputo on 9 October.

Malval reiterated his government's commitment to receive from the international community the "assistance" for the "professionalization and modernization of our institutions," which should "lead toward progress and justice." "We hope this noble adventure will be with all Haitians so that together we can dominate the tumultuous currents of the Minuha," [Deseamos que esta noble aventura sea de todos los haitianos, para que juntos podamos dominar las tumultuosas corrientes de la Minuha] Malval said. Malval also said that the arrival of this mission "could calm the violence in Haiti" and that the Army and the police will become more professional. The prime minister said that the mission will not be an "occupation force" and that it will be guided by UN norms.

Malval said that any action taken by a member of the mission "outside the camp sites or anyone caught committing a crime will have to face Haitian justice." The members of the mission, who will have special permission to "enter or leave the country," will spend the equivalent of nearly $5 million in the country per month, according to the Haitian prime minister who said this figure is a considerable contribution to the country's economy.

Asked about the hypothetical failure of the mission and the recent insinuations expressed by the U.S. Government on the deployment of its troops to Haiti, Malval said, "the failure of the mission would be catastrophic for the United Nations." "The U.S. Government could not take a step backward either without paying a high political cost," he said. "If Haiti does not have stability and progress, if the Haitian people cannot keep up hopes for a better life, the problem of Haiti will be more of a problem for the United States than it will be for Haiti," Malval added.

Asked to give a balance of the work done by his government, Malval limited himself to saying: "We have survived six months and are laying the groundwork for a new state."

As for the "aide-de-camps" (police assistants), Malval said they are "the expression of a policy" and will disappear with such a policy.

Holds News Conference on UN Mission

PA1110032593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2301 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Report by Herold Jean Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 10 Oct (EFE)—Haitian Prime Minister Roberto Malval has announced that a UN international technical cooperation mission will arrive in this country tomorrow. At a news conference today along with eight ministers to announce the mission's arrival and to report on efforts made by his government, Malval clarified that this is a cooperation mission and not an occupation mission. Malval said that he signed an agreement on 9 October with Dante Caputo, UN and OAS mediator for the Haitian crisis, authorizing the arrival of this technical mission.

The official said the UN mission for Haiti will allow the country to start establishing the bases for progress and democracy this decade and to ensure that the people's basic needs are met by 2004, the year of the country's independence bicentennial. To those who have resorted to violence, Malval said they cannot prevent changes, because they are inevitable. He urged everyone to participate "to ensure this becomes the great adventure of the Haitian people."

"We do not want to exclude any force that supports the principle of democracy. We cannot be left behind by history; we must make history," Malval added. As for the mission's monthly expenditures, Malval revealed it spent about $6 million in the country. [sentence as received]

Replying to a question about the arrival of a U.S. contingent in the country, Malval said that "a failure by the mission would be catastrophic for the United Nations, while the United States cannot renege on its commitments without paying a high cost." He warned that "should Haiti fail to achieve stability and progress and should the people not see an improvement of their living conditions, the country's problem will increasingly become a U.S. problem; we are only one and a half hours away from the U.S. coastline and not even its Sixth Navy Fleet would be able to prevent desperate men, women, and children from abandoning an increasingly hostile land."

Malval reported that the Latin American foreign ministers rented a plane, which they named "America's plane," to accompany constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide during his return on 30 October. He said that several heads of state have voiced their wish to accompany Aristide on that day. As for the state of public administration he found, the prime minister said there are few automobiles and that there are no office supplies to conduct normal activities. "I can say that we found ashes. It is as if public administration had been hit by a storm," Malval added. The head of the Haitian Government also talked about the efforts his administration is making to pay salaries owed to public employees, and he wondered how they have been able to survive without them. "Where is the money?" he asked.

Malval commented on the $600 million that were spent in 24 months without building any highways and hospitals and also commented on the critical situation facing this country, which is the poorest in the hemisphere. "I think that those responsible for this situation must explain to the country what they did with that money," Malval added. Meanwhile, Economy Minister Marie Michle Rey has said that the budget deficit has increased fivefold. He announced negotiations with multinational agencies, donations from various organizations, including the USAID and countries such as Taiwan and France, and a $55-million agreement with the World Bank to help cover the country's debt payments.

Michle Rey also reported on other projects approved by the Preval administration prior to the coup and announced that the Inter-American Development Bank is willing to finance works for $200 million as soon as Haiti pays arrears on its debt. The mission, which will arrive in Haiti tomorrow aboard a ship, will be welcomed by Malval, the diplomatic corps, UN and OAS officials, and ministers of the Haitian Government.

Foreign Minister Asks UN To Continue To Exert Pressure

PA1210001293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, 11 Oct (EFE)—Haitian Foreign Minister Claudette Werleigh today asked the UN General Assembly to continue exerting pressure so that the minority antidemocratic forces in her country "will have no other option but dialogue and reconciliation."

While worrisome news arrived from Haiti that the ship carrying 200 U.S. soldiers was prevented from docking, Werleigh's speech conveyed a warning but maintained an optimistic tone. The U.S. soldiers form part of the 1,300-member military and police force seeking to modernize the Army and create a new police.

In statements outside the assembly, she said the international community must react to today's events and said that the reestablishment of sanctions is a "possibility." She said that in her opinion, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide should not postpone his return, which, according to the Governor's Island agreements, should take place at the end of the month.

In her speech, Werleigh said the government to which she belongs was established on 30 August, with a prime minister who was elected according to the Constitution and according to the 3 July agreements, which establish the methods for the return to a constitutional and democratic system in Haiti. She said that the Haitian people are intensely and permanently struggling for the return of democracy and for respect for their fundamental rights, which were taken away from them by the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat. She said that "we are on the verge of turning that painful page in our history."

She said that the sanctions imposed by the Security Council were suspended and that they will only be definitely canceled when the transition process is completed. Meanwhile, the UN mission in charge of providing the necessary technical assistance to strengthen institutions and consolidate democracy has begun to be deployed to that country.

The Haitian foreign minister said that to promote national reconciliation, an amnesty has been agreed upon for the political crimes committed during the coup d'etat period. She warned, however, that certain phases still need to be fulfilled and obstacles must be overcome before 30 October, the date established for Aristide's return.

She said that the recent events, "characterized by an outbreak of violence," force one to doubt the political will of the other side regarding fully respecting the agreements and the New York Pact. "The implementation of an institutionalized mechanism of violence and intimidation by factions opposed to the establishment of democracy and the increasing number of human rights violations worry us, because these actions reveal the deliberate bad faith of institutions whose function is precisely to protect security and the exercise of the rights of citizens," she stated.

"Aware that this situation cannot last, we issue a sincere appeal to all those who with goodwill want to build a better present and future for the children of Haiti and who want to give our country the opportunity to return to the path of progress," Werleigh added.

Demonstrators Prevent U.S. Diplomats From Meeting Troops

PA1110170293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1632 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Oct (AFP)— Hundreds of demonstrators, most of them armed, prevented U.S. Embassy personnel in Port-au-Prince from gaining access to the port in this capital.

The diplomats had gone to the port to greet U.S. troops participating in the UN mission in Haiti. Approximately 200 soldiers of a total of 600 were expected at the port in Port-au-Prince today. Civilians fired bursts of machinegun fire and shouted slogans hostile to the foreigners, particularly to the troops. In addition, they kicked and damaged several Embassy automobiles.

Commenting on these incidents, Dante Caputo, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Haiti, accused the Haitian Army of violating the Governors Island Agreement that specifically calls for the return of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide to Haiti on 30 October.

Caputo told the press that this is an "insult to the United Nations" and added that a report will be sent to the UN secretary general and the Security Council. In Washington, a Pentagon military spokesman contacted by AFP merely stated that the Harland County, a ship carrying approximately 200 U.S. troops, was waiting for other ships to leave before docking in Port-au-Prince.

Caputo Comments

FL1110190193 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Begin Caputo Recording] The situation of this morning [words indistinct] we are appalled at the attitude of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]. After [words indistinct] widely explained the characteristics of our mission [words indistinct] several military delegations from the United States and other countries, a UN diplomatic mission has come to the country to talk with the High Command and General Cedras, to explain very precisely the meaning, the content, and the mission [as heard] of the international mission, we are faced with [words indistinct] a clear violation of the commitments made by the Haitian Armed Forces. [Words indistinct] an insult to the United Nations. We are going to send a report to the [UN] Security Council immediately. We believed that the commitments of the Haitian military were true commitments. They were not. A group of armed lawbreakers; port authorities who were absent; apologies that cannot deceive anybody [words indistinct] (?violation). I am also stressing this second word, (?violation), because we hope to carry on with the development of our mission here in Haiti, despite these problems, despite these violations. [end recording]

These statements were made by Dante Caputo on the morning of 11 October.

Group Takes Over Radio, Broadcasts Ultimatum to Malval

FL1110192493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Armed civilians using the authority of the Capois Lamort Movement, a branch of the Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress, invaded Radio Nationale d'Haiti on the afternoon of 11 October. They broadcast on the state-sponsored radio a message giving 72 hours to Prime Minister Robert Malval to leave the country. They came down against the occupation of the country and against the presence of foreigners in Haiti. They are also broadcasting nationalistic songs and messages hostile to foreign occupation. At the moment that I am speaking to you, armed civilians are searching cars in downtown [Port-au-Prince], where activity has significantly decreased.

Argentina Sends Military Detachment To Protect Caputo

FL1110201393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The Argentine Government has decided to send about 10 soldiers to Haiti to ensure mediator Dante Caputo's safety. According to official sources in Buenos Aires, the Argentine military men will not wear the blue UN helmets. The Argentine detachment will be drawn from the border guard and will have the added responsibility of ensuring the protection of the Argentine Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Cedras Defends Protesters, Condemns UN, Media Takeover

FL1210011593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Statement by General Raoul Cedras in Port-au-Prince, 11 October—recorded]

[Text] The doors of the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces were closed on 11 October as a statement of protest against possible foreign intervention in Haiti. Reacting to the events that marked the day, the head of the Army said he condemns the incidents that occurred today [11 October]. Gen. Cedras also deplored the statements made by foreign diplomats who labelled as lawbreakers those who demonstrated today against the UN Mission in Haiti [MINUHA]. The Army commander expressed serious doubts about the true objective of MINUHA. To defend his argument, Gen. Cedras quoted statements by U.S. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin who asserted that the U.S. military would be armed with assault rifles, a condition, Cedras pointed out, not provided for in the Governors Island Agreement. Cedras stated that the Army is making efforts to respect its commitments. The commander in chief of the Army called on the legislative and judicial powers to assume their responsibilities.

[Begin recording] The Armed Forces urges the legislative and judicial powers to provide a verdict on the situation, and to assume their responsibilities because, considering the terms of the Constitution, the Armed Forces believes that the exercise of national sovereignty is ensured by the three powers that constitute the foundation of the state. As cosignatory of the Governors Island Agreement, I ask, on behalf of the military institution and the Haitian people in general, that transparency and integrity be maintained by all parties in the implementation of a peaceful transition process.

The Armed Forces deplores that Haitian citizens, worried about sovereignty and demonstrating to demand transparency in state affairs, have been labelled bandits and lawbreakers by representatives of the international community. However, the Armed Forces energetically condemns the acts of violence recorded this morning and the illegal occupation of the state media. Orders have been given to correct this intolerable situation.

Finally, the Armed Forces invites the population to remain calm. Measures, falling within the jurisdiction of the military institution, have been taken to ensure the safety of lives and property, and the normal functioning of national life. I thank you. [end recording]

Officers 'Invoke Spirits' of Heroes Against 'Occupation'

FL121[illegible]015993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] It is to be noted that several high officers of the Haitian Army today paid homage to the heroes of independence at several of the country's historic sites while the first contingent of U.S. soldiers was expected in Port-au-Prince.

A military official, who asks to remain anonymous, stated that the Haitian Army considered the arrival of these troops a form of occupation of the national soil, and that it is time to invoke the spirits of the homeland's founding fathers.

Sprays of flowers were placed at monuments dedicated to the principal founders of the Haitian homeland, such as Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henry Christophe, and Toussaint Louverture.

Chamber Head Sees Civil War, Urges Mission Suspension

FL1210022193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The president of the Chamber of Deputies has written to the UN secretary general suggesting the provisional suspension of Resolution 867. According to a reliable parliamentary source, the president of the chamber, Deputy Antoine Joseph, has asked Butrus Butrus-Ghali to temporarily defer the implementation of the UN resolution creating the UN Mission in Haiti [MINUHA], while waiting for the parties involved in the political crisis to take a stand.

Noting that there are problems with the wording of the resolution, the Haitian parliamentarian has reportedly recommended a broad meeting on the political crisis in Haiti. According to the same anonymous source, the president of the Chamber of Deputies has proposed a summit, to include the president and vice president of the National Assembly, Prime Minister Robert Malval, General Raoul Cedras, and UN secretary general and special envoy, Dante Caputo.

In his letter to the UN secretary general, Deputy Antoine Joseph has taken into account the incidents recorded on 11 October, in his opinion, a sign of imminent civil war in the country. He also asserted that the Governors Island Agreement has been violated by both sides and that it presented serious implementation problems.

It should be noted that this initiative by the president of the chamber has been approved by the principal political groups within the Haitian parliament.

Army Announces Decision To Resist 'Foreign Forces'

PA1210003893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2346 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Oct (EFE)—The Haitian Army today announced its decision to resist military presence under UN leadership, because it constitutes an occupation of the country "by foreign forces."

The doors of the Army general's garrison were closed as a sign of protest while a group of armed civilians occupied the national radio and television stations to broadcast messages and songs against the soldiers sent by the United Nations.

Raoul Cedras, Army chief and leader of the 30 September 1991 coup, urged the judicial and legislative branches "to issue an opinion on the situation and exercise their responsibilities."

Demonstrators of the Front for Haitian Advance and Progress [Frente para el Avance and el Progreso Haitiano—FRAPH] today prevented the docking of the Harlan County, a ship transporting 200 U.S. soldiers, and prevented access to the dock by the supervisors of the United Nations mission and the OAS and officials of the U.S. Embassy.

Chamber President Requests Suspension of Deployment

PA1210025393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0052 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Oct (EFE)—The Haitian Army voiced on 11 October its resistance to the presence of military forces commanded by the United Nations, as it considers this is an occupation of the country by "foreign forces."

The doors of the Army General Garrison in Port-au-Prince remained closed as a sign of protest while a group of armed civilians occupied the national radio and television to broadcast messages and songs against the military sent by the United Nations.

Cedras voiced his doubts about the nature of the UN mission in Haiti after groups close to the Army questioned why the U.S. soldiers arriving in the country for a "peace mission" were carrying "heavy-caliber weapons."

The military chief recalled that he was one of the people who in July signed the Governor's Island Agreement with Aristide in New York through UN mediation, but he asked the political parties to be very honest in this stage of the process.

Meanwhile, it was announced on 11 October that Antoine Joseph, president of the Chamber of Deputies and an opponent of Aristide who nonetheless displayed he is open to a dialogue, sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali requesting the suspension of the deployment of the UN mission following the incident on the morning of 11 October which prevented the U.S. Ship Harlan County from docking in the port.

Joseph claims that the Governor's Island Agreements have been violated to facilitate the return to Haiti of Aristide, the ousted constitutional president, and he warned that there is a possibility of a "civil war in the country."

Demonstrators of the Front for Haitian Advance and Progress [Frente para el Avance and el Progreso Haitiano—FRAPH] on 11 October prevented the docking of the "Harlan County," a Navy ship with about 200 U.S. soldiers on board, and blocked access to the dock to observers of the UN and OAS mission and officials of the U.S. Embassy in this capital.

In the afternoon of 11 October a group of armed civilians of the "Capois-la-Mori" organization, which supports the military regime and opposes a return to constitutional order, broadcast messages over national radio and television against the presence of foreign soldiers. This organization demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Robert Malval within 72 hours.

Various personalities known for their opposition to Aristide also broadcast messages over the radio against a return to constitutional order.

According to radio reports, a person died in the area of Carrefour as a result of a fight over the arrival of UN forces.

Cedras, in his official declaration, questioned the fact that "foreign diplomats" described those who oppose the arrival of UN soldiers as "hoodlums," in reference to the FRAPH protest. He criticized, however, the illegal occupation of public radio and television stations.

A FRAPH spokesman said that "the country is in a state of war" and assured that its action against the "Harlan County" seeks to prevent Aristide's return.

"I was surprised by the attitude assumed by Haitian soldiers following a campaign to explain the nature of the UN mission by me and other sectors such as the United Nations and OAS," Dante Caputo, former Argentine foreign minister and UN envoy, said at noon on 11 October.

Caputo's office denied the UN envoy requested the presence of Argentine soldiers to protect his life.

St. Lucia

'Breakdown in Law' Brings 2 Deaths in Farmers' Protest

FL0810133193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1309 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Oct 7, CANA—Two young men were killed and several other persons, including two policemen, were injured here Thursday during a disturbance on the third straight day of protests by banana farmers, Prime Minister John Compton said.

Compton, in a broadcast to the nation Thursday night, said the disturbance occurred in a section of Dennery in eastern St. Lucia, and began when a group of policemen, sent to clear roadblocks and restore order in the area, was attacked by "a mob using cutlasses, sticks, stones, bottles, and virtually anything that could come to hand and could be used as a weapon".

"The action the police took, therefore, was one of self-defence and completely justified in these circumstances," Compton said, regretting the loss of life.

Compton repeated a charge made earlier by the government that the farmers' protest over the level of pay for their fruit, had been taken over by "criminal elements" bent on causing trouble in the Dennery area.

Compton said these elements had been blocking the roads, cutting down trees, stoning vehicles, molesting motorists, and preventing children from going to school. The result was a "complete breakdown of law and order", he added.

The farmers' protests stemmed from a dispute with the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA) over current prices paid for their bananas. The farmers, who are seeking a minimum of EC30 cents per pound of bananas sold to the SLBGA for export, said current prices made farming uneconomical.

Compton accused the SLBGA of "mismanagement" and announced that cabinet had taken a decision to dissolve the board of directors with immediate effect, as the first step of a proposed comprehensive restructuring of the industry.

Whilst acknowledging that low export prices had contributed to the present plight of farmers, Compton said the SLBGA had a 16 million dollar (one EC dollar ; 37 cents US) just three years ago and this was intended to cushion the industry when a projected drop in export prices did occur.

Compton said the SLBGA today was "completely bankrupt", with debts of 23 million dollars and many bills unpaid. For example, he said if a hurricane were to hit St. Lucia now, the banana industry would be in trouble because the SLBGA's insurance fund was in deficit, even though weekly deductions had been taken from farmers.

Salinas Warns NAFTA Must Take Effect in Jan 1994

PA0910050793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Oct 93

[From the "TV 13" newscast]

[Excerpt] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has warned that the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] must take effect in January 1994; otherwise, a delay would be tantamount to a cancellation, perhaps for many generations. In statements to the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, the Mexican president said that neither renegotiating the treaty nor postponing the date for its implementation are viable options at this time.

Meanwhile, U.S. President William Clinton supported Mexico's position regarding the urgency of ratifying the treaty without postponing its implementation or renegotiating it. He maintained that the only means to generating jobs in a country is through a greater volume of trade exchange. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has said that the trade agreement must be ready this year, but he insisted, however, that he will continue to try to introduce modifications to the agreement.

Here in Mexico, Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche on 8 October met with members of the Free Trade Agreement Advisory Council to which he voiced his trust that they are on the right track, and thus the treaty will be finally approved. Serra Puche committed himself to continue working for the approval of the agreement and to keep society informed of the process. After the meeting, the business sector ruled out that Mexico's vigorous position is in any way a recognition that the treaty is in jeopardy:

[Begin recording] [Eduardo Bours, Agricultural Institute representative, identified by caption] I think that, as it has been said, the internal measures that have been adopted have added importance to everything that has been done. The result of this is the pact that all sectors just signed, which is a good one. With or without a treaty the pact will help Mexico grow and develop. I reaffirm it is important, but it would not be the end of the world if there were no treaty.

[Cattlemen's Association member Cesar Gonzalez, identified by caption] The president and all Mexicans have agreed that with or without the treaty Mexico must continue to grow. I think that the treaty will be implemented. The cattlemen of the three countries have reacted positively to the treaty. [end recording]

Presidency Economic Advisor Claudio X. Gonzalez has said that in view of the possibility that the treaty might not materialize, Mexico must adopt measures to diversify its trade and investment sources to continue being a growing competitive economy.

Two ecologist groups in Washington asked the Supreme Court of Justice to review a ruling that rejected a study on environmental impact on the North America region.

This Friday a group of six U.S. legislators, headed by Democrat (John Conyet) met with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to clarify their doubts regarding NAFTA. The legislators, three Democrats, two Republicans, and one independent, gave a news conference after the meeting. They said that President Salinas had clarified several of their doubts on NAFTA, especially the ones related to labor and environmental issues, and had opened new hope for NAFTA receiving support at the U.S. Congress. [passage omitted]

Italian Official Dismisses NAFTA-EC Rivalry

PA0810165293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2306 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Oct (NOTIMEX)—An Italian Government official said in Mexico City today that the EC has dismissed the possibility that the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] may foster rivalry between the two economic blocs. At a news conference, Giuseppe Giacovazzo, the Italian deputy minister of foreign affairs, asserted that the EC does not fear NAFTA because it takes a positive view of the alliance, which promotes barrier-free trade exchange. Giacovazzo said that free market systems are the only possible way to go in world trade and maintained that closed economies have no place in the future, citing the disintegration of the former USSR as an example.

Giacovazzo, who is in charge of political and economic affairs with Latin America, predicted that by next spring Mexico will be inducted into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which is made up of the 23 most industrialized countries in the world.

He explained that the purpose of his visit to Mexico, which began yesterday and ends on Sunday, is to establish the foundation for a framework cooperation agreement to increase bilateral commercial exchange. The Italian official stressed that the Latin American nations have the legitimate right to overcome "the anguish of underdevelopment," and that Western Europe is willing to contribute economic aid for this purpose.

Nevertheless, said Giacovazzo, the Latin American countries will receive this financial aid on the condition that they show signs of irreversible democracy, including strengthened civilian governments that fully respect human rights.

Regarding the UN mission in Mogadishu, he warned of the threat of Somalia turning into another Vietnam. He stressed that Italy believes the African nation's internal problems should be resolved by the country's political forces.

Upon observing that there is a crisis at the United Nations, Giacovazzo said the international organization must strengthen its structures because the United States is assuming the role of a worldwide order-establishing power.

* Implications of Ratification Process Viewed

93CA0004A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Sep 93 pp 1-A, 22-A

[Commentary by Lorenzo Meyer, Colegio de Mexico international relations specialist: "Drawbacks of the Free Trade Agreement"]

[Text] It so happens that the arguments of President Salinas's political allies in the United States are sounding more and more like those of his enemies, so much so that they are becoming blurred.

At the ceremony at which the side agreements of the Free Trade Agreement [FTA] between Mexico, the United States, and Canada were signed, former President Carter stated: "Mexico has a long road ahead of it to arrive at truly honest and democratic elections." The former president clearly has a very negative opinion, and with ample justification, of Mexican elections, including those held under the Salinas administration. But the former president's harsh judgments did not stop there. If the United States does not support the FTA, he added, we will have seen "the end of any hope for us to have honest, democratic elections in Mexico in the near future" (EXCELSIOR, 15 September).

"It is absolutely true that Mexico today is full of corruption. Thus, we will be taking a big risk by not passing the FTA and helping to reform that system" (LA JORNADA, 9 September). This remark was made by U.S. Republican Congressman James Leach who, like former President Carter, also supports the FTA.

If the arguments of former President Carter and Congressman Leach typify the ones that the allies of Carlos Salinas's administration are going to set forth on Capitol Hill in Washington in support of the FTA, it is going to be very difficult to differentiate them from those of the agreement's opponents.

The quoted remarks are an indication of something truly disturbing: the great extent to which internal Mexican affairs are or could be part of the political debate in the United States. The FTA does a great deal more than just open up the Mexican economy to the United States. At this juncture it no longer makes sense to argue, as the authorities have, that free trade between Mexico and the United States is merely an economic issue. No, for geopolitical reasons and owing to the noteworthy pressure that the asymmetry between the contracting parties generates, the FTA is much more than just a commercial and financial agreement for Mexico; it is going to push it towards true integration with its powerful neighbor to the north. For this very reason, certain of our negative traits, such as corruption or the absence of honest elections, to which Messrs. Carter and Leach referred, are going to be discussed publicly in the United States as often and in the tone that political circumstances there dictate. It matters little whether we like this or not, since it is part of "interdependence" with our neighbor to the north.

Realities in Mexico, as former President Carter properly emphasized, stand in very negative contrast to democratic theory and practice. One of the basic goals of the people who created and the people who run the Mexican political system today has been to preclude democratic uncertainty by preventing parties from succeeding each other in the exercise of power. Their success in this effort has been impressive, without parallel in the world this century. Ever since the elections under Carranza in 1917, the official results of Mexican balloting (which have often been different from the real results) have been as predictable as the change of seasons. It so happens now, however, that political uncertainty is filtering from the outside into the system of heretofore perfect certainty (which is another way of describing a "perfect dictatorship").

Democracy inevitably implies some degree of political uncertainty because under such a system there is always a chance that the ruling party will be defeated at the polls and have to depart. This sort of uncertainty is problematic but healthy, inasmuch as society uses it to limit the abuses and incompetence of authority.

By starting negotiations on the FTA with the Republican administration in the United States in 1990, Salinas was seeking to overcome the economic crisis that broke out in 1982 and the political crisis of 1988, by means of an aggressive neoliberal policy complemented or backed by a "special relationship" with the United States. By making this decision, Mexican leaders inadvertently tied their political agenda and fate to the uncertainties of U.S. democracy. What they planned to prevent from within came upon them from without!

With the FTA and the increasing integration of Mexico into the complex society of our neighbor to the north (an integration that is perhaps inevitable but not necessarily under the conditions under which it is taking place), a number of political variables in our system have come to be increasingly influenced by the "U.S. factor." And the many competing players that lend substance to this factor today (the President, senators, and congressmen, Ross Perot, the governors of Texas and California, labor leaders, environmental groups, the mass media, etc.) are using what we could call the "Mexico factor" for their own domestic purposes. Thus, in Mexico today we are living with the uncomfortable paradox that while we still do not have a democratic system, we are experiencing second-hand one of its effects: uncertainty about the fate of the FTA for reasons related to the ballot box.

Last year the voters in our neighbor declined to reelect their president, George Bush, and inadvertently dealt a blow to the FTA. The Clinton team that succeeded the

Bush team in the White House ultimately decided to endorse the accord with Mexico but on the condition that two "side agreements" be added to it on the environment and working conditions. Under these agreements Mexico had to accept the remote but real possibility of trade sanctions if it could be demonstrated that certain lines of production were systematically violating existing environmental and labor regulations. But this was not all. By bringing the FTA before a Congress that is as divided on trade liberalization as the one in Washington today, the Mexican Government is seeing how items on its domestic agenda are being dragged into the U.S. political debate (combat). As in the Garcia Lorca poem, the Mexican elite today can say that it is no longer itself, nor is its house its own any longer.

This is not the first time that the U.S. Congress has made use of Mexico's affairs as weapons in battles between parties and factions. In 1913, when the civil war in Mexico was intensifying, for example, our country's problems and their effects on U.S. interests were used by Republicans to attack Democrats. Senator Albert B. Fall, a Republican with ties to businessmen with interests in Mexico made very good use of the contradictions in President Woodrow Wilson's policy towards Mexico to turn the Senate Foreign Relations Committee into a forum against it. On 6 July 1919, Fall got the Senate to set up a committee to investigate developments in Mexico (Resolution 106 of the 66th Congress), and the hearings that it held (the Wilson presidency had already grown weak) gave rise to a torrent of accusations against the Carranza government, against Wilson, and against the Democratic Party. The "Mexican problem" thus became one of the issues in the U.S. presidential campaign, and the Democrats lost.

Fall's action tied recognition of the governments of Adolfo de la Huerta, first, and Alvaro Obregon, later, to the signing of a "friendship and trade treaty." The purpose of this treaty, which ultimately became the so-called "Bucareli Accords" of 1923, was none other than to rewrite the rules of economic relations between Mexico and the United States, particularly as regards the security of foreign investments, something that is not exactly alien to the letter and spirit of the current FTA.

As a result of this experience, for several decades since then Mexican Government leaders have defined Mexico's national interest, which to a large extent was their own interest, in such a way as to minimize the possibility that the country's internal affairs would become a matter for debate within the United States. It was the search for relative independence from the United States that led Mexico's elite to make revolutionary nationalism and noninterference by one government in the affairs of another their banner in foreign policy.

The proposal of the FTA in 1990 and the bid to integrate Mexico with the United States marks the end of a cycle in history. The preservation of the relative independence of the past within the setting of an open economy and trade blocs is too high a price to pay for Mexico's elites and possibly for the country as a whole. By spending millions of dollars on lobbying efforts inside the United States (between $25 and $40 million in three years) and by supporting the reelection of George Bush, the administration of Carlos Salinas has once again fully introduced the "Mexico factor" into the domestic politics of our neighbor to the north.

Under these circumstances the best way to defend Mexico's new interests is to avoid structural inconsistencies. If the Mexican authorities portray themselves to their foreign partners as democrats and supporters of the rule of law, then the facts ought to match the theory. It is better, much better, for other countries not to define us as a society on which side agreements have to be imposed because we are "full of corruption." And it is better, much better, for the uncertainty of democracy that we are experiencing to stem from our own democracy, not that of another country. I realize that for the time being this is an unlikely solution, but it is not impossible.

U.S. Border Patrol's 'Operation Blockade' Said 'Racist'

PA1010000293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2116 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Oct (EFE)—The U.S. Border Patrol has intensified surveillance operations at the Mexican border between the cities of El Paso, United States, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, today as part of "Operation Blockade," which is aimed at stopping the flow of illegal aliens. A total of 400 policemen, 200 vehicles, and two helicopters are participating in the operation, which began on 20 September.

There are two policemen and a vehicle posted every 200 meters along a 32-km stretch to permanently guard the border, and the number of policemen is expected to increase in the next few days. The measure adopted by the U.S. authorities has sparked numerous protests among Mexican civilian and political groups, who have described the measure as racist and xenophobic.

Mexican immigration authorities have said the problem with the illegal aliens, instead of being resolved, has been passed on to other neighboring towns, which has created greater conflicts in these areas, because they lack the infrastructure to handle the immigrants. Francisco Barrio, governor of Chihuahua, a state in northern Mexico, has said a call made by the organized business sector of Ciudad Juarez not to buy goods in the city of El Paso could yield good results, because sales in that U.S. city have dramatically dropped. He added that a large part of the population in Ciudad Juarez has been adversely affected by the operation, because many of them frequently went to work on the other side of the border.

According to newspaper reports, the only ones benefiting from the military occupation of the border have been the illegal alien traffickers, who have increased their rates to help people cross the border. The traffickers, who now charge between $100 and $150 for each crossing, resort to new strategies such as the use of sewers and drainage systems connected to downtown El Paso to get their customers across. In statements to the media, the traffickers say "Operation Blockade" is a complete failure, because the 800 illegal aliens who cross the border each day continue to do so through other towns.

A study conducted by the Mexican Senate states that under the mistaken view that illegal aliens are a social and cultural problem for the United States, the Mexicans are the target of police brutality and racial violence. "Border violence is institutional violence prompted by U.S. authorities, who in many cases cause the death of certain Mexican immigrants. There is also a clear tendency to drop criminal charges against the officers involved," the study adds. The measure adopted by U.S. authorities, far from being a solution, closes the doors to dialogue and peaceful coexistence among nations, because the immigration phenomenon has more deep causes and explanations, the document adds.

The study also indicates that the North American Free Trade Agreement will be the instrument capable of reducing the flow of illegal Mexican immigrants, because with the opening of the doors to foreign investment more jobs will be created in Mexico. "Immigration is a combination of economic, social, and cultural factors, the solution of which far exceeds the possibility of being resolved by a single country," the document concludes.

More Border Operation Reactions

PA1210035193 Mexico City XEQ Canal 9 Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by Rossana Diaz from Ciudad Juarez; from the "Plenty of News" newscast; live relay by Mexico City XHTV Television Network]

[Text] The U.S. Border Patrol began four weeks ago its Operation Blockade along the border with Mexico. It prohibited the entry of illegal aliens, arguing there were high crime rates in certain cities such as El Paso, Texas. There have been protests on the Mexican side as well as from the other side, particularly from merchants and those who provide services to Mexican visitors.

Some reports say this is just a show set up by the Border Patrol [previous two words in English] to justify its existence and budget. In addition, next year is an election year, as in the case of California, for example; therefore, it is also time to campaign and make promises.

The Border Patrol's Operation Blockade is going on its fourth consecutive week on the Juarez-El Paso border point. Even though the Border Patrol has used up its initial budget of $300,000 since 19 September, it is now working with agents from cities close to El Paso, Texas.

In the meantime, civilian associations that defend human rights as well as merchants from El Paso continue to demand the immediate suspension of this operation, which most of them have described as racist and contrary to NAFTA.

[Begin Martin Sanchez, director of the Coalition for Border Rights, as identified by caption, recording] What tourist or investor who comes to the border wants to see a militarized border? He is not going to feel very secure of being here. He will feel very much the opposite. Who wants to invest in Guatemala or in El Salvador when they are under military control? The same thing is going to happen here. Nobody is going to want to invest. This is a slap in the face of the Mexican people. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in El Paso will propose on 13 October that the Immigration and Naturalization Service process special permits for those illegal aliens who want to cross the border to work.

[Begin Jesse Alvarez, president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as identified by caption, recording] There should be some sort of special permit for those who come from Mexico either to go shopping or even to work.

There should be a program, such as the one before with the braceros; that is, for the people who come to work and return to Mexico. [end recording]

There has been so much pressure that the chief of the Border Patrol, Silvestre Reyes—who, by the way, is a Hispanic and author of the operation—has announced that he will meet on 13 October with (Mathew Mittel) of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in El Paso to seek other alternatives to solve the problem and not necessarily militarize the border. The people continue to wait for the evidence that the Border Patrol promised to show citing the drop in the crime rate and the birth of illegal aliens in El Paso. So far, figures show the opposite of what the Border Patrol claims.

Foreign Secretariat Deplores Chinese Nuclear Test

PA0810204693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0128 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government deplored today the nuclear test conducted in China, noting that it constitutes a setback in the international suspension of nuclear tests, the Foreign Secretariat has reported.

A Foreign Secretariat communique notes that Mexico regrets the nuclear test carried out by China on Tuesday and appeals to the other countries possessing nuclear weapons to respect the moratorium. A total end to nuclear tests is a fundamental step to raising the hope of ending the nuclear threat that has hovered over the world. It is also a prelude to a general and total ban of that type of weapon, the communique reads.

The United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia have also expressed their rejection of the Chinese nuclear test, which ended a 15-month international moratorium. Japan headed the reaction in Asia against the nuclear test carried out by China which, together with the United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia, possess the largest nuclear arsenals in the world.

The Chinese Foreign Minister stated Thursday in Beijing that international criticism was unfair because "among the five nuclear powers, China is the one that has conducted the least tests."

Last Tuesday China detonated an atomic bomb with the force of 70 to 80 kilotons in the Lop Nur desert testing grounds in the northwestern Province of Xinjiang.

Costa Rica

Calderon Urges U.S. To Seek Rapprochement With Region

PA0910020293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0040 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] San Jose, 8 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon on 8 October urged the U.S. Government to promote a rapprochement with Latin America instead of distancing itself from the region.

After displaying his annoyance on 7 October over a U.S. Department of Commerce decision to investigate an alleged lack of union freedom in Costa Rica, on 8 October he again lamented the fact that the United States is not seeking a rapprochement with "its natural friends."

The U.S. Embassy in San Jose warned through a telephone message read over broadcast media that "that the attack by President Rafael Angel Calderon" against the Clinton administration "is not beneficial." Neverthless, the Costa Rica president insisted he had to denounce what he termed as "lamentable."

During a break during a tour to a town south of San Jose to inaugurate several projects, the president said that what is not beneficial—for either the United States or for Latin America—is further distancing. He added that this is what the United States must be very clear about in reviewing its policy toward its natural allies, "which we Latin Americans have been."

President Calderon said the current Washington administration "not only does not have a defined policy toward Costa Rica, but it also lacks one toward Latin America."

The president had called U.S. policy "arrogant" for embracing AFL-CIO charges accusing Costa Rica of lacking freedom for labor unions. Calderon claims this issue should be handled by the International Labor Organization and not by the Clinton administration.

Costa Rica's position was supported on 7 October by a majority of Latin American and Caribbean nations through their UN representatives, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus told the media. These countries said officially that the action against Costa Rica "constitutes a violation of international law and the UN Charter."

Criticizes U.S Attitude

PA1010220893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2031 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] San Jose, 10 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon once again today criticized the United States' "interventionist" attitude in pressuring that Central American nation into reforming its local labor laws.

In his Sunday message, Calderon rejected U.S. "interventionism" in the internal affairs of that country. Frictions between the two countries began after the U.S. Department of Commerce endorsed a lawsuit against San Jose for allegedly violating labor laws, which could leave Costa Rica outside the General System of Preferential Treatment (SGP).

"In the first place, as Costa Ricans we could never accept that, and much less can we accept anyone meddling in our internal affairs, as we alone must decide what we want," Calderon added. "In addition, (what are we to learn from them), what can the United States tell us about labor laws?" Calderon asked.

He said that Costa Rica will show Washington that it has a more advanced labor law than the United States and a social security system that was implemented 50 years ago.

Calderon strongly reacted against questions from the powerful U.S. trade union American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), which filed a lawsuit against Costa Rica in June. Calderon said U.S. unions have exerted a great amount of pressure on President William Clinton's administration and "now are threatening Costa Rica with causing serious problems in the future."

The AFL-CIO has asked that Costa Rica be expelled from the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a program that exonerates nontraditional products from paying export taxes in the U.S. market for a sum totaling approximately $340 million a year. According to Calderon, his government "has good arguments in its defense to win the case," but the most serious impact of the accusation is the damage caused to its international image.

Ambassador Denies Deterioration of Relations With U.S.

PA1110001093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2158 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] San Jose, 10 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Gonzalo Facio, Costa Rican ambassador in Washington, has said that bilateral relations with the United States have changed but denied talks of deterioration.

In an interview granted to LA NACION, the diplomat talked about the tensions that have emerged between the two countries after the U.S. Department of Commerce endorsed a lawsuit filed by U.S. labor unions against Costa Rica. Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon described as "unfair and arrogant" the attitude of the United States in questioning Costa Rican labor laws and in threatening to exclude Costa Rica from the General System of Preferences.

Facio said that Calderon was "emotionally disturbed, because he believes the decision to place Costa Rica among the violators of workers' rights is unfair." The lawsuit against this Central American nation was filed last June by the American Federation of Labor and

Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), a coalition that comprises several labor organizations.

According to Facio, U.S. labor unions "are aiming at us, because Costa Rica is the birthplace of the solidarity movement and they believe it is a threat to their subsistence." Facio said "this position is wrong, because solidarity associations can coexist with the labor unions." The ambassador ruled out the possibility that with the lawsuit the United States could take reprisals for not complying with the payment for the expropriation of property from U.S. citizens.

He also said that Costa Rica will ask for legal advise from U.S. legal firms for the country's defense. It is possible that the firm Manatt, Phelps, and Philipps, for which Democratic Party President Chuck Manatt works, could be in charge of the defense.

President Sends Labor Union Reform Bill to Assembly

PA1110051093 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 5 Oct 93 p 4A

[Article by Nelson Murillo]

[Text] President Rafael Calderon has sent the Legislative Assembly a labor union reform bill so that workers who participate in the creation of a labor union cannot be dismissed during the two-month period following the registration of the union at the Labor Ministry.

The bill was drafted by the president and by Labor Minister Carlos Monge Rodriguez, and it was presented to three delegates of the International Labor Organization [ILO] with the purpose of updating the country's labor legislation.

Calderon said that the drafting of the bill is not the result of "impositions from a world power," in reference to a lawsuit filed by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations [AFL-CIO] of the United States against Costa Rica for the alleged violation of labor union rights. The U.S. Commerce Department will decide today in the afternoon if it will endorse or reject the lawsuit.

According to the head of state, the initiative must be handled by the Legislative Assembly in addition to a package containing three Labor Code amendments, the approval of which is a requirement for the AFL-CIO to withdraw the lawsuit against the country.

"The ILO will evaluate the progress we have made in a general assembly next year, even though much remains to be done. We hope to come out well," said the president, who held a luncheon for ILO representatives Jose Vida Soria, Gerardo Cardenas Falcon, and Alberto Odero de Dios at the Presidential House at 1300 yesterday.

Vida Soria said the ILO advised the government in the drafting of the bill. "This is an important step forward. Costa Rica is a very progressive country, but it must make many adjustments," he said.

Carlos Monge said that the executive branch agreed to the ILO mission's visit, because the country wants its labor laws to be in keeping with the principles of the organization.

Marco Vinicio Ruiz, president of the Costa Rican Union of Private Enterprise Chambers and Associations, believes a national debate should be opened on labor union laws so that all sectors involved can contribute their viewpoints. Chamber of Commerce President Carlos Alvarado was more drastic, however, when he said he was very concerned about the president's intentions when he said labor union leaders cannot be dismissed.

Government To Normalize Ties With South Africa

PA0710122093 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 28 Sep 93 p 6A

[Report by Nelson Murillo]

[Text] On 27 September, President Rafael Angel Calderon said that Costa Rica is in the process of normalizing diplomatic relations with South Africa. He recalled that Costa Rica opened a consulate in Johannesburg on 24 February, after that nation approved reforms against racial discrimination.

After supporting African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela's call to the international community to lift economic sanctions against South Africa, Calderon said "we have no objection" to improving our relations with that nation as long as the majority of its population, who are black, have the same rights and duties as the whites.

Foreign Ministry officials reported that in August 1992 the government decided to open a consulate in Johannesburg, which has been operating since 24 February in accordance with the authorization published on that date in the official daily LA GACETA. The honorary consul in Johannesburg is Philippe Kuypers, a white South African of British descent. A Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, said "the consulate was opened mainly for commercial reasons."

Eulalia Bernard, a writer and university professor, said in her opinion that the government's decision to normalize diplomatic relations with South Africa—suspended on 4 July 1986 because of the racial segregation policy that existed then—"was a hasty measure." Bernard said the president should have consulted the black population before restoring consular relations, but she clarified that she is not against the measure. "It would be regrettable if the purpose behind normalizing diplomatic relations with South Africa is based on economic interests."

Meanwhile, political analyst Jaime Daremblum said the opening of a consulate in Johannesburg was "a correct and positive" decision in view of the "new context" of the situation in South Africa where measures are being implemented to abolish racial discrimination, which are being legitimized by democratic countries. In Daremblum's opinion, apartheid (segregation of blacks) is a "moral scar." He said the resumption of consular relations will encourage trade with that nation.

El Salvador

Government Signs Credit Agreement With Germany

PA0810142293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Oct 93

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] The Salvadoran and German Governments signed an aid and credit agreement for 43 million German marks, $26.4 million. These funds will be used for social welfare and economic projects. Most projects involved in this agreement are located in Puerto Acajutla, where 28 million German marks will be invested to improve the infrastructure. This work is scheduled to take four years. The Center for Research and Technical Exchange will receive 6.4 million German marks to improve its workshops and laboratories.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Salvadoran official] This morning, the German and Salvadoran Governments will sign three agreements. These funds are being granted on very easy terms. We are talking about a loan with a 0.75 percent interest rate, payable in 40 years, with a 10-year grace period. These loans are truly being granted under easy terms to El Salvador.

The German ambassador to El Salvador, who negotiated the funds, said that his government is pleased to contribute to the reconstruction process in El Salvador.

[German ambassador] I am very pleased with the signing of these three agreements. This is our modest contribution to the Salvadoran peace process, especially the program to help war veterans—one half will benefit Army veterans and the other half the members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. We hope our modest donation will help the Salvadoran peace process. [end recording]

These funds also include a scholarship project for former Army and FMLN members, a project that will utilize a total of 9 million German marks in its first stage.

FMLN Asks for Investigation Into Attack on Health Minister

PA1110023793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], after expressing its concern over the attack on Health Minister Lisandro Vasquez Sosa, has asked the National Civilian Police and Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] to investigate the case.

The health minister was attacked on 7 October, but was unhurt. FMLN Spokesman Juan Ramon Medrano said an in-depth investigation is necessary.

[Begin Medrano recording] We are concerned about this attack, as there have been no previous attacks against top government leaders coming from the workers, former armed groups, or the Armed Forces, let alone the FMLN. We are concerned about the fact that the alleged attack has occurred amid a confrontation involving the minister, who was unable to clearly resolve the labor conflict at the Health Ministry.

We believe that the FMLN's logical position should be to call for a thorough investigation so that the situation can be cleared up. We are concerned about these types of incidents taking place and not being properly cleared up. If it was an attack, those responsible should be investigated, and the full weight of the law should fall upon him. If the situation is not cleared up, we are going to have our doubts, because apparently there were no bullet holes and no witnesses.

These types of situations make us ask ourselves what may have happened. I am not saying it was a self-inflicted attack, but we do not know its causes. It could have been an attack by certain right wing sectors trying to create conflicts. I do not think the workers were responsible, let alone the FMLN. We have no reason for executing attacks of this kind against military officers, former death squad members, let alone the minister, who is a civilian.

The FMLN has said we have to keep our distance from the armed struggle, and we must preserve the balance and total respect for the law and the state of law.

I would call on the people's attention not to be caught by surprise. These types of incidents need to be investigated, because if someone is responsible the full weight of the law must fall upon him. If this is not the case, we must investigate to determine the origin of this attack. There have been campaigns against the FMLN; there may even be fake arms caches. You must remember that certain Army weapons that were confiscated from the FMLN have not been turned in. I call on the people to remain alert and to conduct in-depth investigations. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Health Minister Lisandro Vasquez Sosa has said the investigations were stepped up on 8 October, but he did not specify where the preliminary investigations conducted by the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions are heading.

Dr. Vasquez Sosa called on the people who fired at him on Thursday to reflect on their actions.

[Begin recording] [Vasquez] Investigations in this regard are being conducted, so I cannot say anything else until the investigations are over.

[Unidentified reporter] Could this be a result of the situation experienced by the ministry with the workers?

[Vasquez] I do not want to accuse anyone. The only thing we want is for the people to be sensible and to reflect. They should forget about executing these types of actions against me or some other Salvadoran brother.

[Reporter] Are you going to take measures to prevent these types of attacks from occurring?

[Vasquez] We are going to place our trust in God so that he will illuminate their hearts and make these people reflect. We are going to take certain security measures, but I believe the most important thing is for these people to be convinced that this attitude must change. [end recording]

Unidentified individuals fired at Dr. Lisandro Vasquez Sosa, moments after leaving his offices at the Health Ministry. The Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions is continuing the investigations on Friday.

Guatemala

De Leon Expresses Regret on URNG Response to Peace Plan

PA1210032593 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE Spanish 11 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio yesterday expressed regret that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) is responding to the peace plan his government presented before the UN with bullets, harassment, and loss of human lives.

The president voiced his concern over the intense fighting between government troops and rebels of the self-styled Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA) in La Reforma Municipality, San Marcos.

The URNG's warmongering response is going nowhere, and it is a rejection of the Guatemalan population, he added. The guerrilla commanders have promised that they will not continue with this kind of action. The opposite has occurred, however, and fighting has seriously intensified, endangering the civilian population, he continued.

Attack Against Journalist Under Investigation

De Leon Carpio affirmed that he has ordered an investigation to clarify the causes for the attack perpetrated against journalist Oscar Masaya.

He expressed regret that this criminal action has occurred and said he asked for an investigation to find those responsible. "During my administration I will not allow attacks against freedom of expression," the president added.

De Leon Carpio Satisfied With the TSE [Supreme Electoral Tribunal] Decision

President Ramiro De Leon Carpio yesterday expressed his satisfaction over the decision of the magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of rejecting the recourses filed by several Congress deputies against the popular consultation.

This demonstrates that the government is acting in keeping with the law, he added; therefore, he explained, the popular consultation will go on, and the people of Guatemala will have the opportunity on 28 November to approve or disapprove the president's request and support his request for Congress deputies and Supreme Court justices to resign.

De Leon Carpio was interviewed yesterday morning at the Mateo Flores National Stadium during the soccer match between our country's team and that of Costa Rica.

On Civilian Groups' Criticism

PA0910143193 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio has disclosed that the peace plan, announced on 4 October in Guatemala and at the United Nations the following day, has been well received by the international community. De Leon regretted, however, that some sectors of the civilian population have rejected the government peace plan before knowing its content.

[Begin De Leon recording] My message to the population was rather general and yet these groups or their representatives began sending facsimiles to New York and the entire world rejecting the plan. They were doing that and they had not even learned about the content of the peace plan.

I personally told them that it was irresponsible. I told them so with all due respect because some of them are my friends. I believe that they were venturing an opinion on a document they knew nothing about. They admitted that they did not know the document. However, they said that they based their opinion on the message that I gave to the people. But it was a general message. It is not the same as looking at a plan in black and white and having the time to analyze and study it. I think they acted rashly. Notwithstanding, we had a very pleasant and positive dialogue, the type of dialogue that I usually hold with groups that disagree with some of my decisions.

I think their intention is good, but they are worried, have doubts, and harbor fears. They are just so concerned that they are voicing their opposition even before the belligerent party, the other party, reacts to the plan. These groups are already pointing out defects in the plan.

What truly worried me, and I told them, is that the civilian population has always demanded the opportunity to participate, and now that the government finally offers the people a chance to do so—a chance to discuss major issues and look for possible solutions at a negotiating table in a clear, open, and public manner—they reject it. I do not understand why they oppose this plan. They used to demand participation and now that the government proposes precisely that, they argue that the people's voices were not heard. However, they do not tell me why. They simply say that the plan is incongruent and that we are going backwards, but this is not true because it is not the same plan and current conditions are not the same as those of five months or a year ago. Thus, I believe we must be very much aware of this. [end recording]

Army Reacts to Guerrilla Statements

PA0810234793 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 5 Oct 93 p 15

[Statement issued by the Guatemelan Army's Information and Press Department in Guatemala City on 29 September—paid advertisement]

[Text] Out of consideration for the respect deserved by national and international public opinion and considering the so-called Poor People Guerrillas' Army [EGP] message presented to the Armed Forces by the Communities of Resistant People (CPR), through a paid advertisement dated 11 September, the military institution hereby states as follows:

A. While it is true that the Guatemalan Armed Forces does not consider these communities to be "guerrillas," they have been advised that they are part of a political-military structure organized since 1982 by a clandestine faction of the EGP as result of the loss of control over the population, local power, and territories previously controlled. These communities are also currently being used in the political struggle as another tactic in the strategy of the people's revolutionary war.

B. The Guatemalan Armed Forces has observed, with deep regret, the manner in which these simple peasants are being used to carry out actions that favors resupply, self defense, information system, replacement of combatants, and other fundamental activities that sanctions the survival of aforementioned terrrist group, in accordance to guidelines established by the so called URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity].

C. The manner in which this victimized population is undergoing social isolation is of special concern. It is worthwhile asking them why they do not abandon this type of life (which according to their own account is one of affliction) and join society, as has been done by numerous citizens and their relatives who now lead a productive life without having to remain under a system of restrictions similar to the one implemented in the CPR.

D. The few persons who have visited the CPR have been able to ascertain that only the harmonious voice of the alleged "leaders" is heard. They speak in the name of the community, deny the core of the population access to any relationship with visitors out of fear that this contact will reveal the reality of the situation.

E. Is it by chance that the terms and the requests made by the CPR are the same ones employed by certain mass organizations and even the URNG itself?

F. The alleged "total isolation," in which they claim to live contrasts with the up-to-date topics the aforementioned groups constantly bring up, such as the dissolution of the civilian patrols, the demilitarization of Guatemalan society, military recruitment, and other topics, emulating those who with a special interest, systematically criticize the Guatemalan Army.

G. We know from people who have abandoned these communities, as well as from documents seized from terrorists about the relationship, guidelines, and political process that exists between these communities and the URNG, who utilizes these communities for their national and international political-diplomatic struggle by saying they are the most "progressive" of the people's revolutionary movement. It has also been confirmed that one of the guidelines they receive is to keep denouncing the government and the Army so that they have to pay a high political price for the situation they are facing. Besides, if their existence dates back to 1982, why was it not until 7 September 1990 when they decided to break the silence with their publicity campaign? Likewise, if they claim to suffer from so much poverty, "where do they get the money" to pay the high cost of the numerous paid ads published in the different media?

H. The presence of this citizens' group, the blowing up of the Ayal bridge, the many demonstrations and reports against voluntary civilian defense committees, and the military conscription lead us to suppose a cunning plan had been prepared to impress the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission which recently visited the country.

I. What is their goal when they seek recognition as a civilian population, if they assert they are not part of the guerrilla organizations....? Then, what are they and what prevents them from freely mobilizing themselves and stating their will? Why do not they recognize legally established authorities? And why, every time merchants approach the communities, do terrorists prevent them from freely carrying out their trade?

J. Perhaps the organization they claim they have achieved during their alleged years of resistance—for instance, the Districts Directorate (DD), Area Committee (CA), Local Clandestine Committee (CCL), Group Leader (RG), and Local Guerrilla Force (FGL), etc.—is the form of government they want to implement, thus creating a state within another state?

K. If the internal military conflict directly affects them, why do not they ask the terrorist groups to stop using and controlling them; and invite them to stop accumulating weapons abroad, to stop sowing death in our country, and to really show their political willingness to achieve peace?

To conclude, the Guatemalan Army urges the comunities under rebel control to join the country's normal activities, recognize legally established authorities, do not let clandestine factions manipulate them, and support the efforts to achieve the peace that all Guatemalans want so much.

[Issued in] Guatemala City, 29 September 1993.

[Sealed and initialled] Information and Press Department of the Army

Army, Guerrillas Clash in San Marcos; At Least 10 Killed

PA0910025093 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, Oct 8 (AFP)—Firemen Corps spokesmen reported this Friday that at least 10 people were killed and approximately 30 injured in the heavy clashes that ensued between the Army and guerrillas in the San Marcos Department mountain area during the past hours.

Further on Clashes

PA0910170693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0550 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Oct (NOTIMEX)—An Army captain died and two soldiers were wounded today as a result of the explosion of a claymore mine in La Igualdad farm, 240 km west of this capital, the Army has reported. Unofficially it has been reported that there could be more victims.

The Army Information and Press Department confirmed this evening that Captain Alejandro Elell died and soldiers Manuel Lopez and Placido Estrada were wounded when the mine placed by guerrilla columns was detonated. The department has denied reports that 10 soldiers died and another 30 were wounded during a clash with a column of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms [ORPA]. The department also reported that several units have been mobilized to surround the guerrillas, who for the past 48 hours have been harassing Army forces.

In September the Guatemalan Army designed a plan to fight the guerrillas operating in the Departments of Quiche, Solola, San Marcos, Peten, Alta Verapaz, and Quetzaltenango. The offensive actions against the rebels include depriving them of their potential source of supplies, the Communities of Resistant People, according to the Army.

On 30 September, an ORPA column occupied the town of La Reforma in the western Department of San Marcos and assembled the population to listen to a speech. On Wednesday, as a result of a bitter clash between guerrilla units and an Army patrol, two soldiers and one guerrilla died and 17 soldiers were wounded.

This evening the Army confirmed that it will set up control points as well as conduct search operations to capture the guerrillas who continue to undermine public infrastructures and provoke the government forces. Military harassment operations would prevent the rebel columns from getting any rest.

Defense Ministry sources have informed NOTIMEX that interdiction operations will be carried out to keep rebels from receiving aid from abroad or to merge with other groups. Tomorrow the Guatemalan Air Force will carry out visual, photographic, and meteorological reconnaissance flights that will allow the Army to surround the guerrillas, high-level sources have reported.

It was also reported that approximately 1,000 guerrillas continue the struggle. Experts believe that this figure is not right because the Army has resorted to 800,000 civil patrolmen to try to beleaguer the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG]. In spite of official minimalist claims, the Army been unable to eliminate guerrilla concentrations and the government has agreed to negotiate a peace agreement with guerrilla forces.

Residents of La Reforma Municipality, near the site where clashes are taking place, have expressed fear over the possibility of a large-scale military escalation. Unofficial sources have said that more people could be wounded as a result of the ongoing clashes. The military institution, however, has reported that these are not big clashes but small skirmishes.

Calm Reported in San Marcos

PA1210033393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Oct 93 p 143

[Report by Edgar Octvio Giron Castillo]

[Text] A tense calm prevailed yesterday in La Reforma Municipality, San Marcos Department, and adjacent communities following a week of fierce clashes between the Army and a guerrilla column of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA).

The clashes have resulted in four dead and 25 injured, and the skirmishes ended in recent hours after the rebels abandoned the camp they had established near Oriflama and La Igualdad farms, at the base of Sacuchua Hill.

Residents of El Baluarte Farm, where a military detachment set up its camp, reported the sound of machine-gun fire is no longer heard. The rebels have apparently abandoned the place, but they left behind Claymore mines, which have prevented the Army troops' advance.

It was reported that a group of foreign journalists, possibly Spaniards, arrived at La Igualdad Farm, site of the clashes, to interview the officers in charge of the military offensive.

Hostilities began on 30 September, when a guerrilla column seized the town for over three hours. The rebels seized control of the municipality, where they talked with the acting mayor and municipal officials, stating they have adopted a harder position because President Ramiro de Leon Carpio deceived them.

They told the municipal authorities the president had advocated the achievement of peace when he was the human rights ombudsman, but this is no longer the case, because he has tried to delay an urgently needed agreement.

On this occasion the rebels took blank and already filled identification cards, as well as municipal and secretariat stamps. They also took food supplies from the town's stores.

On 4 October soldiers established contact with the guerrilla column at Oriflama and La Igualdad Farms. Private Ramos Martinez, 20 years old, was injured in the clash.

The officers in charge of the operation said access to the area is difficult, because the rebels left behind Claymore mines, which killed Private Juan Antonio Cifuentes Yoc, 21 years old, and injured various soldiers.

Residents of these farms said the guerrilla column includes three women, one of them a blonde and two who are possibly Indians, as well as numerous subversives. They said they saw one of the women being carried on her comrades' shoulders, possibly because she was injured. The rebels have abandoned the area.

De Leon Announces Package of Economic Measures

PA1210054893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0359 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio today announced a package of economic measures to attack tax evasion, curb inflation, fight poverty, and sponsor changes in the country's production sector.

During an address to the nation on Monday, the head of state, who assumed the post on 6 June, said his government's main concern was to guarantee the economic and social rights of the population—60 percent Indians.

De Leon Carpio accused his predecessor, Jorge Serrano Elias—ousted after the 25 May coup d'etat—of leaving the government's coffers practically empty, incurring a high debt, speculating with the foreign exchange rate, and squandering resources.

He added: These problems were compounded by a drop in revenues, an increased inflation, pressure on the interest rates, and the people's high expectation given the change of government.

The president pledged to consolidate democracy and the rule of the law, fight poverty, create the conditions to reactivate production and employment, and reorganize the public administration sector.

He explained that investments will be made in areas that were previously neglected, and efforts will be exerted in three basic sectors: health, education, and agriculture.

The Guatemalan president stated that the fight against inflation is a necessary, but insufficient, condition to achieve progress in the fight against poverty.

"It also requires changes in the style of government, structural actions which modify and change our economy," he said.

He announced the government will maintain fiscal discipline, meaning it will not spend in excess of its revenues.

Likewise, he said, definite solutions will be sought to the problem caused by the Bank of Guatemala's losses and the deficit in the other public sector enterprises, because these losses also generate inflation.

Referring to tax collection, De Leon Carpio said that Guatemala is the country with the lowest tax collection of Central America. The president said that the minimum the country requires for a budget is $3 billion, but at present it only has some $1.6 billion.

The president feels that the people must develop an awareness for paying taxes. He announced drastic penalties for those merchants who refuse to issue invoices to consumers or who illegally take over the value-added tax (IVA) they charge the consumers and which corresponds to the government.

"We will promote the draft laws that are necessary for increasing the legal penalties that are included in the tax code," he said. As part of the measures for improving tax collection, the president announced that "those enterprises or services that have not shown to be productive will be given out for concession and even privatized." Likewise, he announced that the government expenses will be reoriented and channeled to priority areas.

De Leon Carpio also announced the elimination of overall subsidies and the decentralization of public services. Among the specific goals that the president announced on Monday is an economic growth of 5 percent in 1994 and of 6 percent in 1995, with which Guatemala would be achieving the highest rate of economic growth in the last 20 years.

Japan Suspends Financial Aid, Technical Cooperation

PA0810150293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2138 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Japanese Government has suspended its financial assistance and technical cooperation to Guatemala due to the political crisis in that country, diplomatic sources reported today.

Japanese Ambassador to Guatemala Hirosuke Oshima said his government is waiting for a solution of the current political situation in order to disburse $6.4 million earmarked for the Guatemalan hospital system. Ambassador Oshima said his country plans to continue its cooperation with Guatemala in various areas such as culture, sports, and infrastructure.

Oshima promised the Guatemalan Government that during the next meeting of Japanese ambassadors to be held in Tokyo in mid-October, he will pressure the Foreign Ministry to give more support to President De Leon Carpio's government. He said De Leon Carpio, who assumed the government three months ago after President Jorge Serrano Elias was ousted, requested economic support from the Japanese Embassy in Guatemala City to implement his 180-day plan. The government recently admitted it does not have the $100 million necessary to implement its plan.

Japan had suspended economic aid to Guatemala after the 25 May government crisis that forced Serrano Elias to relinquish power. The crisis among government branches, however, stagnated more than 45 days ago when De Leon demanded the resignation of 116 congressmen and nine magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice "to eliminate state corruption."

After 45 days of meetings, Congress today resumed its sessions after the Constitutional Court ruled that congressmen should return to the Chamber. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) has called a referendum which will be held on November, in which the Guatemalan people will say whether they support or reject De Leon's demand for the resignation of deputies and magistrates.

Government Statement on Human Rights

PA0810224693 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Oct 93 p 64

["Official Statement on Human Rights"—first paragraph in italics as published]

[Text] *The government of the Republic, according to its benevolent nature and its constitutional duty to ensure unrestricted consideration for human rights and taking into account that many civilian organizations have requested that the government explain its commitment in this important field as a positive step to consolidate the democratic system and advance toward peace.*

Declares:

1. The government of the Republic again reaffirms its determination to abide by the principles and standards designed to guarantee and protect human rights fully in Guatemala without the need for agreements with any one faction. The government will continue to enforce all the measures to protect the human rights.

2. The government respects, recognizes, backs, and pledges to reinforce all legally established agencies.

Any action or behavior that limits, restricts, threatens the human rights-related functions assigned to the Judicial Branch, the human rights ombudsman, and the Attorney General's Office undermines fundamental principles of the state of law and cannot be tolerated.

The government reiterates its determination to respect the independence and protect the freedom of action of the Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's Office against pressures, regardless of their type or origin, so these two agencies can fully enjoy the guarantees and means necessary to their efficient operation.

The government will continue to support the human rights ombudsman's work to strengthen the institution by backing his activities and stimulating the necessary reforms for the better fulfillment of his functions and duties. The government firmly supports all initiatives to improve the technical and material conditions that the human rights ombudsman requires for his investigation, supervision, and follow-up tasks regarding full compliance with human rights in Guatemala.

3. The government acknowledges the need to combat and pledges to take action against impunity. As part of this effort, the government will propose at the Legislative Assembly the necessary legal amendments in the Penal Code so the forced or involuntary disappearances of persons, as well as summary or extrajudicial executions, can be classified and the perpetrators severely punished. No special situation, social or economic condition, privilege, or exclusive jurisdiction can be used to justify the impunity of those found to be human rights violators.

4. So the human rights can be respected with no limitations, there should not exist any illegal organizations or clandestine security agencies. The government admits that it is its duty to combat these agencies, if any exist. The government reiterates both its pledge to keep on purging and professionalizing the security bodies and the need to keep adopting and implementing efficient measures to regulate the possession and use of firearms by private individuals.

5. Freedom of association and movement are internationally and constitutionally recognized human rights that must be exercised in accordance to the law and be in full force in Guatemala.

The human rights ombudsman, exercising his authority, has the duty of verifying if the Civilian Self-Defense Voluntary Committees [CVAC] members have been forced to belong to said committees against their will of if they have committed offenses or violated human rights.

In view of complaints that may be filed in this respect, the human rights ombudsman is duty-bound to conduct investigations that may be necessary and, after publicly stating that those committees need to be voluntary and respectful of the law and human rights, the ombudsman will conduct inquiries in the towns, ensuring that the will of the CVAC members is expressed freely and without pressure of any kind. Were transgressions to the rule on the voluntary nature of the CVAC or the laws to be corroborated, the ombudsman will adopt the decisions he deems appropriate and promote the corresponding legal and administrative actions to sanction human rights violations.

The government states it will not encourage the organization nor will it arm new CVAC all over the country so long as there are no reasons that prompt it. Should there be a reason, the residents who are harmed may appeal to the mayor, who will then summon a public meeting and call on the human rights ombudsman to verify through all means available to him the voluntary nature of the CVAC and the residents' decision.

The government recognizes the educational and informative activity conducted by the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman in cooperation with the Education, Public Health, and Government Ministries and will see to it that clear and objective information on the content and scope of this declaration is included in this activity.

6. Recruitment for the obligatory military service must fall in line with the provisions of the Constitution and must not be a cause of human rights violations, and, for that same reason, while maintaining its quality as a civic duty and right, it must be just and not discriminatory.

To this end, the government of the republic has promoted the approval of a new military and social service bill in Congress and will continue adopting as well as implementing the necesary administrative decisions.

7. All decisions that may undermine the guarantees granted to individuals and agencies that operate in accordance with the law in promoting and protecting human rights are to be condemned. The government will take all necessary special protection measures to the benefit of all those persons and entities involved in human rights who may so request it. Likewise, the government will initiate appropriate and in depth investigations into all reports related to harmful acts or threats, in cooperation with the victims of said threats.

The government of the republic reiterates its commitment to efficiently guarantee and protect the tasks of all individuals and agencies involved in upholding human rights issues.

8. Assisting victims of human rights violations is a humanitarian duty. Said assistance is and will continue to be carried out through government measures and civil and socioeconomic programs, expeditiously aimed at the most needy, given their economic and social condition.

9. The government acknowledges the need to banish the distress felt by the civilian population as result of internal armed clashes, as well as the need to protect the rights of all wounded, captured, and those who may have become casualties of war. This declaration in no way constitutes a commitment or acknowledgement of any special agreement, under the terms of Article 3, Numeral 2, Paragraph 2 of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

10. The government values and acknowledges cooperation on verification and recommendations on human rights issues that Guatemala has received and continues to receive from international organizations, particularly the United Nations, through its independent expert and personal representative of the UN secretary general, who has been empowered with a mandate to verify implementation of recommendations and to report directly to the UN Human Rights Commission. The government also acknowledges the OAS through its Inter-American Human Rights Commission which maintains permanent watch over the human rights situation in Guatemala, in addition to making periodic visits to the country.

The government expects to continue relying on international advice as well as verification, and exhorts the UN, the OAS, and other country members of both organizations to contribute, through their presence and additional technical assistance, in efforts the Guatemalan Government and its institutions are undertaking to strengthen, train, and perfect its mechanisms of human rights protection and defense.

Nicaragua

Army Unit Repels Recontras in Clash Near Honduran Border

PA0910000593 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2204 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Managua, 8 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Government Ministry reported today, Friday, that a group of recontras attacked an Army unit in the town of Jumuyca near the Honduran border.

A ministry spokesman explained that the clash lasted about 20 minutes and that the aggressors might have been members of the National Salvation Democratic Front, under the command of Jose Angel Talavera, alias El Chacal. The source noted that the recontras, former members of the contras, were attempting to occupy Jumuyca in northern Nicaragua. When the Army repelled them, they fled toward El Rosario.

Other groups of recontras also believed to belong to the 3-80 Northern Front seized two public buses along a highway leading to Ocotal, 210 km north of Managua. They also burnt a small truck belonging to the government.

Government Ministry sources said that, via these actions, the recontras are seeking to demonstrate to the Army that they are active in the northern areas of the country. On 1 October the Army launched an offensive to disarm recontra and recompa (former members of the Sandinist Army) militants who have refused to accept the amnesty offered by the government in an attempt to bring peace to the country. The offensive includes a strong military presence in the northern mountains of Nicaragua.

Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the Sandinist People's Army General Staff, warned last Thursday that "there will be no more patience, considerations, or amnesties for the rearmed groups."

Chamorro Urges Disarmament

PA0910011393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0031 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Managua, 8 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro on 8 October urged Jose Angel Talavera, "El Chacal," leader of the 3-80 Northern Front recontra group, to disarm hours after his forces attacked a town in northern Nicaragua.

Talavera, who leads about 500 men, "must disarm to avoid a clash (with the Army) and more deaths," the president said during a meeting with cooperative members of a company in Niquinohomo, Masaya Department, 45 km southeast of Managua.

On 8 October members of the 3-80 Northern Front attacked Murra, near the Honduran border, but there were no casualties among the rebels or Army troops, military sources have reported. This attack broke a military truce agreed with the Chamorro administration in August to end a double kidnapping in northern Nicaragua and Managua. The double kidnapping was concluded without casualties, and a relative calm reigned in northern Nicaragua until armed groups resumed their actions this week.

The 3-80 Northern Front, the only rebel group still operating in Nicaragua, also burned privately-owned vehicles this week and on 8 October held hostage the passengers of two buses on the Ocotal-Jalapa highway, northern Nicaragua, for a few hours.

The recontras' actions came in reply to an announcement by Army chief Humberto Ortega to establish a special unit to combat the former contras who are up in arms again.

Mayor General Joaquin Cuadra, Army chief of staff, said on 7 October that "all patience was exhausted" and announced that the offensive against "El Chacal" and his men could start 9 October.

"The Armed Forces' patience, the amnesty—which expired 15 September—and the possibility of a legal and political solution have been exhausted, and conditions for the use of force have been created," Cuadra said.

President Chamorro has insisted, however, that peace in Nicaragua will only be achieved through peaceful means.

Military sources have reported that the Army has reinforced its military presence in Murra, 138 km north of Managua, in view of possible attacks by the 3-80 Northern Front.

Several Injured, 1 Killed

PA0910021093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0044 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Managua, 9 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Citing military sources, several Managua radio stations reported that one person was killed and several injured in the two clashes between the Army and "recontra" and "recompa" groups that occurred in northern Nicaragua Friday.

An unidentified rearmed "contra" was killed and another injured in a clash that occurred in a sector called Las Playitas, Jinotega Department, which borders Honduras, the sources stated. In that sector, alleged 3-80 Northern Front members—who are outlaws because they did not accept the amnesty decreed to pacify the country—torched a government station wagon and a vehicle of a religious organization.

Mayor Alberto Molinares, chief of staff of the 6th Military Command (northern Nicaragua), reported that Army troops had clashed with "recompa," rearmed Sandinists forces, headed by "El Colindres" and "El Segovia," in an area north of Ocotal. The armed clash resulted in the death of an unidentified "recompa." The soldiers also arrested three rebels identified as Jose Martinez Centeno, Julio Cesar Molina, and Jacobo Perez Rico. The group headed by "El Colindres" and "El Segovia" is the same one that at the beginning of the week attacked a police group in Rancho Grande, where they injured a policeman and kidnapped another.

Another group of alleged "recontras" murdered Sandinist farmer Juan Reyes Salgado, 48 years old, in the San Ramon sector, 140 km north of Managua, military sources reported.

The Army repelled an attack, which left no victims, by a "recontra" group in the community of Jumuyca, near Murra, Nueva Segovia Department, which borders Honduras. The sources added that the "recontras" destroyed several electricity and telephone posts on the Ocotal-Jalapa highway when fleeing from the Army.

The Government Ministry charged today that rebel groups are committing acts of sabotage and disguising themselves as members of the Special Disarmament Brigades (BED), which was formed to disarm civilians who have weapons. Due to the situation, the government has suspended BED's work in four departments in northern Nicaragua, bordering with Honduras.

'Large Number' of Casualties

PA0910033093 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0305 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] We have a last minute report: Army troops and rearmed groups from Matagalpa have been involved in armed clashes near Matagalpa throughout the afternoon and part of the evening. The Nicaraguan Army has clashed throughout the afternoon and part of the evening with rearmed groups in northern Nicaragua. A large number of dead and wounded people are being taken to the Matagalpa Hospital. Even more dead and wounded should be reaching the city of Matagalpa at around midnight.

Ambush Leaves 4 Soldiers Dead

PA0910033693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0320 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Four Sandinist People's Army soldiers were killed this afternoon during an ambush perpetrated by an unidentified armed group. There are also reports of wounded soldiers. The ambush took place in a place known as [name indistinct], 4 km south of Rio Blanco Municipality. The Army has not yet released the names of the four soldiers, who were killed in an ambush near Rio Blanco Municipality.

Security at Institutions Increased; EPS' Mendoza Captured

PA1110210993 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From the "Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Police patrols were installed this morning near accesses to certain state institutions near the Presidential Palace once it was learned that at approximately 1100 today members of the Dignity and Sovereignty Command's general staff would go to the Presidential Palace.

According to sources close to the Presidential Palace, a meeting would take place between command members presided by Donald Mendoza and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, and Deputy Government Minister Joaquin Lobo. Even though the Presidential Palace has claimed not to know about this meeting, other sources gave assurances that Deputy Minister Joaquin Lobo turned up at the appointment on time. Some of the commands' demands to the government are security, and indemnity for 1,200 retired officers, as well as land and property deeds for rural and urban plots.

An hour ago, following direct orders by Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, former EPS [Sandinist People's Army] Major Donald Mendoza was violently captured near the National Assembly by police patrols.

The Dignity and Sovereignty Command's second in command, [Commander 40], has confirmed to the "Radio News" newscast that Mendoza, Commander 31, was in Managua, because he was summoned by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. Here is the report from Matagalpa with Francisco Perez Lopez:

[Begin recording] [Perez] Nicaragua could become hell if the government disregards the agreements signed with the Dignity and Sovereignty Command. Approximately 2,000 men spread throughout Nicaragua could set the powder keg on fire over the serious social situation the country is undergoing. "Radio Informaciones" speaks to the second in command. Comrade, how true is it that if the government does not keep to the agreements signed you will again take up weapons?

[Commander 40] That is true; this is not in our hands. This is in the hands of the government, which is the side that must show responsibility in the face of the events that occurred over the past few days. Commander 31 has been in Managua for three days answering a call by Antonio Lacayo on behalf of the government. This summon was to negotiate the dismantling of our forces in northern Matagalpa. These forces wanted to cooperate in this country's peace process and also participate in this, something these people yearn for so much.

If, on the contrary, the government maintains its position of not attending to the demands or not personally attending to Commander 31—who is right now outside the Presidency trying to arrange an appointment—what the government will be doing is setting off a spark that may become a bomb.

This movement consists of, basically, EPS crippled, those belonging to the special plan, and to others of the PL-1, PL-2, and PL-3 [expansions unknown]. This movement comprises officers who, if we stop to think, carry weight with their opinions. They are not recontras, recompas, or renegades [alzados]. It is a movement spread throughout all the cities in the country, and part of their Armed Forces are conducting a protest here in the northern part of the country.

We announce from this very moment that the government is responsible for whatever may happen. We have always been under threat that the government will take a more belligerent stance and hurl the Armed Forces on us. With this attitude, the government would be repeating what it did during the Managua transportation strike—pitting Sandinist against Sandinist, and this was regrettable.

At this moment we are unable to control our forces, which are in areas near Jinotega, and another group, which is in the outskirts of Managua on alert for government compliance and how the dialogue with Commander 31 is going. We call on all forces to remain alert, attentive, and ready to initially conduct peaceful and civic activities.

[Perez] What will happen if the government does not keep its promise and sends troops to fight you? They have 7,000 men distributed throughout the country.

[Commander 40] We have no desire to clash and play into the hands of the right wing. The Army, under the command of its chief, should in some way or other not allow themselves to play the right wing game. If they did, he who sows violence harvests violence. We do not want to harvest violence, and we are warning that all we want is to resolve the problem of certain officers who are in the street with economic problems and who at any moment could become a danger to the country's peace. [end recording]

Lacayo Meeting; Mendoza Released

PA1210013093 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From the "Five O'Clock Sharp" Newscast]

[Text] The traditional calm of the Reception Room of the Presidential House was suddenly broken by shouts, insults, and shoves as people were rushing out. We all ran out because Major Donald Mendoza—Pineapple Face—was coming in with a bodyguard who was about six feet and three inches tall, wearing a dark red uniform and combat gear, and with about 12 magazines hanging from his belt.

Three BED [Special Disarmament Brigade] soldiers holding retractable AK-47's were standing at the front door of the Presidential Palace, as if they were occupying a post by assault. What was going on? Mendoza maintained that he had an appointment with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo at 1100 and was going to wait until he was met.

Most of the horror-struck secretaries moved to the back of the Presidency to find a safer area. Others stayed to watch and those who could not move had no other option than to watch this show, part of which you will hear in the "Five O'Clock Sharp" afternoon newscast. This is Donald Mendoza:

[Begin recording] [Mendoza] With Lacayo.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have an appointment?

[Mendoza] At 1100; we had an appointment at 1100.

[Reporter] Who set up that appointment?

[Mendoza] Lieutenant Colonel [name indistinct] gave us an 1100 appointment.

[Reporter] What issues will be discussed?

[Mendoza] Lacayo supposedly said he will.... [pauses] He wants me to surrender my weapons in the mountains. I will not. He should apply to El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] the same policy he is displaying toward my forces.

[Reporter] Have you talked with El Chacal?

[Mendoza] I have talked to El Chacal. The same position applied to my forces of the Dignity and Sovereignty Command should be applied to the forces of El Chacal. I think this is truly irresponsible.

[Reporter] Government Minister Mendieta established a deadline for El Chacal, but he refuses to heed it. What is your opinion?

[Mendoza] I think we must give peace a chance. I think straitjackets cannot be imposed. Words must be honored. He set up an appointment with me at 1100. I do not understand why he is saying I must disarm before meeting with him. Everyone is already familiar with these stories.

[Reporter] Are you disarmed?

[Mendoza] Yes I am.

[Reporter] Are you going to wait for him here?

[Mendoza] I do not know what time he will meet me. I supposedly had an appointment at 1100....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct].

[Mendoza] I will wait as long as necessary.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Mendoza] He has a fax. [end recording]

After this exchange, a police patrol arrived and Mendoza was arrested and taken to Plaza del Sol [not further identified]. We learned Mendoza was released at 1615.

Chamorro Welcomes FSLN-UNO Agreements, Schedules Talks

PA0910015693 Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Managua, 8 Oct (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro was pleased to hear Friday that agreements had been reached between the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the National Opposition Union [UNO] on Thursday, and she invited both political groups to present their plans at a meeting with the government next week.

In a letter sent to the FSLN and UNO, the president scheduled a meeting for 12 October to listen to suggestions for the creation of a new economic team according to demands made by both organizations Thursday night.

The FSLN and UNO, which have been holding bilateral talks since last week, in addition to making demands for changes in the field of economics, reached an agreement on the removal of General Humberto Ortega from his post as Army chief by means of a military organization law, which will be approved by the National Assembly.

In her letter, Chamorro congratulated both opposing political forces on the agreements, saying that the agreements represent "a victory" of the policy of reconciliation and dialogue being promoted by her government since 1990 to put an end to the political conflict.

"My government will decisively support any agreement between you that can strengthen peace, national stability, reconciliation, and unity of the Nicaraguan people," Chamorro's letter stated.

The agreement reached between the FSLN and the UNO "will lead to civic and democratic solutions" to problems and will contribute to the elimination of the use of weapons and violence as means of resolving differences, the message stated.

Ortega Turns Down 12 Oct Meeting With Chamorro

PA1210010293 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Letter from Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, to President Violeta Chamorro; read by announcer; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro

President of the Republic

Dear President: Regarding your 8 October letter in which you invite us to hold a meeting at 1400 on 12 October to discuss the failure of the government's economic plan and the attempts to impose unacceptable conditions on our country for the signing of the ESAF [Economic Structural Adjustment Facility] with the IMF, I want to remind you that the Sandinist Front's position on economic topics was presented to you and your government in July 1992 and that an updated version of the same was delivered to you during the round of the national dialogue that was held in May 1993.

We are open to dialogue and are willing to delve deeper into these topics at a time and date upon which we can previously agree, but on Tuesday afternoon we are scheduled to hold a new meeting with the National Opposition Union Political Council.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist Front.

Minister Warns of Possible 'Military Offensive' in North

PA1110183493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From "The Awakening" Newscast]

[Text] The Northern Zone Peace Commission will try to meet with President Violeta Chamorro today following the failure of seven hours of talks between El Chacal's [Jose Angel Talavera] representative and the government last night.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta headed the government delegation. He accused Talavera of being intransigent, and Talavera said the same of Mendieta. The Northern Zone Peace Commission is promoting the talks between the two sides in Quilali.

Esteli Bishop Juan Abelardo Mata said that no agreements that would allow the continuation of talks were reached. Apparently neither side has enough decision-making ability, the bishop noted.

Last night Government Minister Mendieta said that after the break in the talks, he could not guarantee that the Army would further delay its military offensive. The troops are stationed in bases near Talavera's people, who are in El Zungaro. In the face of Mendieta's warning, Talavera said that if that is the case, they will respond to the fire.

3-80 Northern Front Circulates Leaflets in Jinotega

PA0810151793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Alberto Rivera Monzon from Jinotega; from "The Awakening" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Jinotega and rural areas is tense. Leaflets issued by the 3-80 Northern Front are circulating and classes have been suspended. Leaflets with a photograph of El Charrito, chief of staff of the front [three-second break in reception] municipalities. One of the leaflets reads:

Nicaraguan people: We cannot continue being accomplices [words indistinct] by the cogovernment, subject to misery, hunger, unemployment, lack of moral and Christian values, lack of medical assistance and education. Let us put an end to abuses and violations of human rights. We are thirsty for justice and willing to offer our blood for our fatherland against the criminal military gorillas. Ortega must leave voluntarily or we will be removed by machine-gun fire.

The 3-80 Northern Front urges you—peasant brothers, workers, students, housewives, professionals, and people in general—to struggle as one until we defeat the Ortega brothers nefarious military tyranny.

Today our fatherland demands your courage to save it from state terrorism. Join us and cooperate with the liberty commandos. It is time for unity of action among all Nicaraguan social, political, and economic sectors. With God's help and with your determination, we shall win! Now or never!

Meanwhile, fear has increased in rural areas in view of possible clashes with the Army, which has been deployed to areas between the mountains and Tierra Caliente, and the road between Jinotega and San Rafael del Norte. Guerrillas of the 3-80 Northern Front are scattered in various areas of this municipality. Teachers in areas such as Mancotal and San Marcos have suspended classes as a preventive measure due to the presence of troops.

Verification Commission Member on Talks With 3-80 Front

PA0810223493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Interview with Felipe Sanchez, representative of Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Reports from the northern mountains are worrisome. The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] is assuming combat positions. The 3-80 Northern Front [FN 3-80] of the Nicaraguan Resistance is getting its forces ready to face the Army's offensive with guerrilla warfare techniques. In view of this situation, we are going to interview Dr. Felipe Sanchez, representative of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's Verification Commission. Go ahead Dr. Sanchez.

[Sanchez] The Verification Commission is working with the Quilali Commission, which is specifically dealing with the FN 3-80's case. [Words indistinct] created the new rapid deployment troops. These statements undoubtedly created a certain amount of concern, especially in the north. The city is one thing, the north is another. The situation there is totally different.

In addition, there is a military buildup in Quilali, where large number of troops are being deployed, which causes concern and mistrust. They are not the usual young men permanently posted there. These troops are more experienced soldiers. This undoubtedly creates fear and mistrust. In addition, the FN 3-80 has dispersed its forces because of fears that they are going to be attacked. We are trying, however, to convince them to remain in the positions they have held for the past two weeks while talks for their disarmament continue between the government and the FN 3-80.

[Reporter] What has the mediation commission achieved?

[Sanchez] Following the mandate that was received during the hostage crisis, when the Caulatu Agreements were signed in the north, and which were overseen by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, we have followed up the implementation of the agreements. Meanwhile, some incidents by both the FN 3-80, as well as the case of the Frenchman, have occurred. We also have had a military presence in Quilali, but we are trying to maintain an atmosphere conducive to continuing the talks between the government and the FN 3-80.

We have been holding meetings among ourselves at the Verification Commission and with the Quilali Commission to decide future actions. We also have been holding constant talks with the government, especially with the government minister. A meeting has been scheduled for next Saturday in Quilali. The goal is to agree on a timetable for the disarmament of the FN 3-80. We are optimistic and believe that despite the incidents, the disarmament process is possible.

[Reporter] Who will attend the meeting in Quilali?

[Sanchez] The government and the FN 3-80. They are the two sides that must reach an agreement. We are simply members of a commission that are here to facilitate a rapprochement in order that agreements can be reached. Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta has represented the government and Jose Angel Talavera, alias El Chacal, who is the commander in chief of the FN 3-80, will be there. We will be there as members of the cardinal's Verification Commission, which will be enriched with the participation of some bishops such as Monsignor Mata Guevara [words indistinct] of Esteli and Nueva Segovia. The human rights associations and the CPDH [Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights] are going to be there. Of course the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] will be there. Dr. Francisco Mayorga also will be there. His presence was requested by the FN 3-80 following the kidnappings.

[Reporter] Do you truly believe this meeting will be held, and when will it actually take place?

[Sanchez] We are holding permanent meetings among ourselves and with the government. We believe it is possible for this meeting to take place. We are very optimistic. The situation has changed. Violence and the armed struggle have no reason for existing in the world, and I believe Nicaragua must also join this new era. I repeat, we are optimistic. We believe this meeting will take place, and we believe the FN 3-80's disarmament is possible.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. Felipe Sanchez, for your information.

3-80 Northern Front Launches 'Terrorist' Attacks

PA0910045193

[From the "Radio News" newscast]

[Editorial report] Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1830 GMT on 8 October broadcasts three two-minute reports highlighting recent terrorist attacks by the National Salvation Democratic Front, 3-80 Northern Front. At 1843 GMT Gustavo Acuna reports from Esteli that 3-80 commandos hijacked two buses with 60 passengers aboard at 1000 GMT on the outskirts of Ocotal. Quoting a National Police spokesperson, the reporter states that "some 80 3-80 Northern Front recontras, led by Escorpion and Tono Espejo, intercepted the two vehicles." According to the report, the recontras executed the operation "to pressure the government into complying with the agreements signed with the 3-80 Front." The report adds that the rebels also sequestered a Land Cruiser vehicle belonging to the Catholic Church's John Paul II social program.

At 1846 GMT Francisco Rodriguez reports from Jinotega stating that 3-80 Northern Front recontras, led by Macho Moro, vandalized a four-wheel-drive vehicle, "leaving it and its passengers stranded on the highway. The rebels warned that they cannot be responsible for the safety of any vehicle that dares to venture further into the area." The report states that the rebels "held up and looted a World Food Program truck transporting supplies for the recent storm victims."

At 1850 GMT the station reports that "Army sources confirmed that at 0640 GMT a group of 20 or 25 recontras under the command of Elmer Fajardo, alias Vengador, attacked Murra Military Base." The military source said there had been no casualties on either side. The report adds that the Sandinist People's Army "immediately reported the incident to the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV-OEA, to make them aware that the rebels are continuing to breach the cease-fire agreement, even as the negotiations continue at El Zungano." The report concluded by highlighting that Murra is hardly 15 km away from El Zungano.

Imposes Transportation Boycott

PA1110141993 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Military operations by the chief of the 3-80 Northern Front have paralyzed private and public mass transportation for the past six days throughout Quilali's northern zone in Nueva Segovia Department. Reports from the war scene indicate that EL Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] imposed a stoppage by force. Drivers stayed off the road out of fear of having their vehicles burned. EL Chacal, the 3-80 Northern Front's top leader, decided to impose the stoppage because his demand for a gradual disbandment of his men has not been heeded. Talavera has ordered armed men to allow vehicles of the International Commission of Support and Verification, Cardinal Obando's verification team, reporters, and the Red Cross to enter. Those vehicles may travel between Quilali and Sungaro, according to reports from the north.

Minister Says Efforts To Disarm 3-80 Front Continue

PA0810221993

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 6 October, in its "This Morning" newscast, carries a six-minute "exclusive interview" with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta by unidentified reporters at an undisclosed location on 5 October. During the interview, Mendieta discusses the disarmament of and the legal situations of Donald Mendoza, former member of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) and leader of the group that seized the National Opposition Union offices in August; Victor Gallego Hernandez, alias Pedrito El Hondureno and leader of the Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front; Frank Ibarra, former EPS member and leader of the Leftist Punitive Forces (FPI); and Jose Angel Talavera, alias El Chacal and leader of the recontra 3-80 Northern Front (FN 3-80).

Mendieta states: "Mendoza and Gallego were covered under agreements reached by the tripartite commission. Nevertheless, both were given a specific timeframe in which to disarm. Therefore, this is a legal issue, and the attorney general is the one to decide on their cases. Regarding Frank Ibarra, we in the Government Ministry believe that the conditions surrounding the murder of Arges Sequeira [president of the National Association of Owners of Confiscated Property who was slain in November 1992] are very different from the political problems. When Mr. Sequeira was killed, the FPI did not even exist. Therefore, we believe that Mr. Ibarra's case involves a common crime for which he will have to answer before the courts."

In answering a question about negotiations with the FN 3-80, Government Minister Mendieta replies: "Regarding the case of the FN 3-80, we have held many meetings with the northern commission and with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] party's commission, which has formed two subcommissions. One subcommission was formed to talk directly with the CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification] and with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's verification commission. The second commission was formed to talk with the government."

Mendieta adds that during a meeting with the RN commission on the morning of 5 October, "Commander Leonel [Luis Angel Lopez], president of the RN party, and other RN commanders conveyed Jose Angel Talavera's willingness to fully join the country's political life. They said he wants a dignified solution for his return to political life. We clearly indicated that we need an immediate gesture from Commander Talavera proving his intention to disarm and that we must establish a timetable for his disarmament this week."

The minister says RN party members asked for the government's support for a meeting of RN members to discuss disarmament. He adds that they clearly said that one of the necessary goals of the meeting will be a condemnation of all armed groups and a call for the FN 3-80 to end its armed posture.

Mendieta continues by stating that an RN party delegation will travel to the north of Nicaragua to promote a meeting this week between El Chacal and himself to once and for all decide on a timetable for disarmament.

A reporter asks the minister: "How can one interpret the statements or announcements made by the Army commander yesterday?"

Mendieta answers: "They fall within the framework of the deadlines for disarmament and the amnesty that was granted. We must remember that there are more than 500 people in the country who are involved in clearly criminal activities and that they must be fought to fully guarantee the Plan for Life and Work which was announced by the government at the military base in Matagalpa on 18 May. We must make a distinction in terms of El Chacal's case. When the August kidnappings took place in Managua and in El Zungano, the tripartite commission, which included the country's major political forces, had the mandate to seek mechanisms to resolve the kidnappings."

He explains that as a result of the negotiations, El Chacal was granted 60 days to disarm. Mendieta adds that the government has been flexible and has expressed a willingness to resolve the situation through peaceful means. He states that the government continues negotiating to obtain El Chacal's disarmament in conditions that are acceptable to both parties. Mendieta concludes by saying the government is willing to comply with its commitments on disarmament and to guarantee El Chacal dignified means to rejoin Nicaragua's political life.

President Announces Removal of Cerna as DID Chief

PA1010173693 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Oct 93 pp 1, 8

[Article by Oscar Merlo]

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in Masaya yesterday officially confirmed the removal of Colonel Lenin Cerna from his post as chief of the Information Directorate for Defense [DID]. However, President Chamorro did not confirm which civilian will replace Cerna.

For the past few weeks, EL NUEVO DIARIO has been reporting on the removal of Col. Cerna, a fact that has been confirmed by the president herself who in this manner is giving in to the very strong pressure being exerted by the U.S. Administration. Nevertheless, Dona Violeta's decision to remove the legendary Lenin Cerna from his post had the approval of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] high command. Chamorro discussed with the EPS high command the removal of Cerna, the man who, during the past decade was responsible for the failure of the CIA's plans against the Nicaraguan revolution.

EL NUEVO DIARIO learned, from sources close to the DID, that Cerna's replacement will be announced on Tuesday. It is very possible that Deputy Presidency Minister Jose Adan Guerra will be the new DID chief. Guerra enjoys Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's absolute trust. [passage omitted]

Peace Commission Spokesperson on Peace Talks, Violence

PA0810173793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Francisco Mayorga, spokesperson for the Peace Commission, said he is quite concerned over the fact that the progress that was achieved several weeks ago supposedly is threatened in view of the fast-breaking developments, especially in the northern region where the recontras of the Nicaraguan Resistance are operating. In light of this, Mayorga said the recontras are in serious danger. At the same time the disarmament process is being violated, as well as efforts to secure peace and to achieve the reconciliation of all Nicaraguans.

[Begin Mayorga recording] The commission is quite concerned that the progress that has been achieved up to now may be at risk. We hope that both parties still have the will to continue the talks. The incidents that have occurred are violating the nature of this negotiation and dialogue process. The incidents have apparently entered a stage of escalation, somewhat of a spiral, causing alarm among the commission members.

The Peace Negotiating Commission, which has a fundamental role at this moment, appeals to both the 3-80 Northern Front and the Nicaraguan Government:

—To do everything possible in order to continue to advance on the path of dialogue and negotiations.

—To do everything possible to reduce anything that involves expressions of violence or confrontation.

—To abandon the use of force in the most effective and expeditious manner.

—To guarantee the appropriate climate to continue engaging in dialogue and negotiating the position of that group [words indistinct].

In the talks the commission has had directly with the [words indistinct] leading to a gradual and general disarmament and asking that their lives be guaranteed. The problem is that ever since the [words indistinct] the 3-80 Northern Front does not feel safe. The conditions basically are a security zone where it would be possible to cut back the military presence and at the same time bring about the disarmament of the 3-80 Northern Front forces. The talks are being held, precisely, to strengthen this phase of the peace process, through the path of demilitarization of that zone [words indistinct] where there have been some regrettable incidents. [end recording]

UNO Leader Comments on Gen. Cuadra's Statements

PA0810174193 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Interview with UNO leader Duilio Baltodano, by "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast reporter Carlos Maturana at the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, headquarters in Managua; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Maturana] ...today do not help create the necessary atmosphere, do not sound too promising for the country, meaning the statements by Major General Joquin Cuadra earlier today in connection with the resumption of military actions in the northern area. What do you think about [words indistinct]?

[Baltodano] Well, we do not share Maj. Gen. Cuadra's views. We believe bloodshed must be prevented and there should be no more destruction in Nicaragua because we have already withstood too much destruction. We must seriously reflect about the steps currently being taken. Referring to this, I agree with the statements by Cardinal Obando y Bravo. He said the efforts exerted by his verification commission and the OAS' CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] can perfectly well prevent bloodshed in the northern region. I believe all the civic options, including the option of a dialogue, should be exhausted to achieve a demobilization and an adequate disarmament instead of provoking more military conflicts.

[Maturana] We have statements by Commander Jimmy Leo. He said a united Nicaraguan Resistance made up a peace commission during a meeting that lasted almost all night. The Nicaraguan Resistance issued a communique in which it warns that it is prepared for everything. What is your opinion?

[Baltodano] I believe in this case we must also urge them to adopt actions that conform to civility. We must not be provokers or challengers in warlike situations. Just as I said in connection with Maj. Gen. Joaquin Cuadra's statements I must say it in connection with the statements you mention because that is the mature thing to do. A civic solution must be sought in Nicaragua. Economic problems continue to worsen in the country; international donors are freezing their aid to this country; and that is extremely dangerous for the future of our economy. We have already lost the agricultural year; the ownership issue is still uncertain; and we still lack protection for the citizens and their possessions.

I believe that we should be more positive, act with more rectitude and maturity, and seek solutions to our problems. That is why you see the National Opposition Union [UNO] here at the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] headquarters even though we have been historical adversaries. We believe that under certain circumstances—dealing with our society and the people's development—we must be willing to talk with whomever it is necessary to save the homeland.

[Maturana] What type of agenda do you have? What type of agenda do you bring? What are its points?

[Baltodano] We have a long agenda but it has some priorities, including the problem concerning militarism, the Armed Forces, land ownership, the Legislative Assembly—UNO must recover its majority in the Legislative Assembly—and the economic plan. We are quite worried about the future of the economic plan launched by this government because it has every sign of collapsing. We are quite worried as citizens and hard working men because most UNO politicians are also businessmen. We know the situation is very critical in the economic sector, and the economy requires a change in course, a timely rectification—or else we will all sink, and we will continue to have more unemployment, and all Nicaraguans will pay the consequences.

President Chamorro Sends Letter to UNO, FSLN

PA0910191793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Letter from Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro to the UNO Political Council and to the FSLN National Directorate in care of UNO National Coordinator Duilio Baltodano and FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is with pleasure that I address you today to congratulate you over the agreement you signed yesterday. This triumph of the national reconciliation policy my government has firmly and steadily been promoting since 1990 greatly pleases me.

This beginning of an understanding between you—the country's two most important political forces—has revived hopes that the sterile and dangerous polarization we endured in the country over the past decade will someday be definitely defeated.

Your search for agreement on the issues you have decided to discuss will undoubtedly lead to civic and democratic solutions to the problems of the Nicaraguan people, something that will allow the relinquishing of weapons and violence as forms of struggle.

I congratulate you especially over your decision to unite efforts to promote the disarmament and demilitarization of civilians. This kind of decision, had it been made two and a half years ago, would have saved many people who died at the hands of rearmed groups from both sides.

My government will support all the agreements you may reach whenever they serve to strengthen national peace and stability, reconciliation, Nicaraguan unity, the democratic system, a legal state, and the reconstruction and recovery of our economy.

In view of this, and considering the urgency of adopting very serious decisions on the economic field, especially on the signing of [word indistinct] with the IMF, I am very interested in meeting with you on your economic and social reconstruction field agreements.

I invite you to hold a meeting—the Government, UNO [National Opposition Union], and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]—in the Unity Room on Tuesday at 1400.

You have agreed that the government's economic plan has failed and according to your agreement it is necessary to have a new and integral plan that must encourage production and investments, facilitate credits, and generate jobs, a plan that is to be implemented by a new economic team.

Therefore, I beg you to present at the meeting the fundamental elements of this new integral plan and to propose the economic team you are suggesting for the implementation of this plan.

I will be expecting confirmation from you.

Respectfully and cordially yours,

[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of Nicaragua

Sandinist Statement Rejects U.S. 'Meddling,' Cuban Blockade

PA1110194393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Oct 93 p 12

[Statement by the Sandinist Assembly of the Sandinist National Liberation Front issued in Managua on 10 October]

[Text] The Sandinist Assembly of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], during a special session on 10 October 1993 to pay homage to Commander Saul alvarez, after examining the grave situation in Nicaragua, reached the following agreements:

1. To fully back the agreements signed by the National Directorate negotiating committee and the parties of the National Opposition Union as a first step in the search for a way out of the country's political crisis.

2. To approve the political objectives of the constitutional reform to promote a reforms bill capable of guaranteeing the development of democracy.

3. To invite all political forces, associations, and social and productive forces to create a common front against the impositions that international financial organizations want to enforce in Nicaragua.

4. To maintain Sandinist support for the National Transport Commission in its struggle for compliance with the agreements signed by the government. To back the actions carried out by the National Directorate, the secretary general of the FSLN, and the Transport Commission of the National Assembly during the recent strike.

5. To denounce and reject the U.S. Government's meddling in the branches of state and the stabilization and institutionalization process of the Armed Forces, a meddling expressed in the structural and command changes it wants to impose on the Armed Forces. Likewise, to reject the submissive and antisovereign stance of the government in yielding to pressure.

6. To condemn violence and its causes and to support the people's struggles.

7. To demand the unconditional disarmament of all armed groups and an end to criminal actions against peasants and authorities. To acknowledge the effort made by the groups that have put down their weapons as a contribution to peace and stability.

8. To urge the government to promote and give priority to the political dialogue rather than force to resolve conflicts.

9. To point out the importance of the decision adopted by Socialist International to renew the Pro-Nicaragua Committee, something that opens new sources of solidarity for our country.

10. To present for discussion by the Sandinist rank and file the proposal on the political objectives of the constitutional reforms.

11. To back efforts to lift the blockade against Cuba and to urge the Nicaraguan Government to vote in favor of such action at the UN General Assembly.

12. To back the National Workers' Front march against the IMF's policies, which call for the privatization of basic services.

13. To convoke a special meeting of this Sandinist Assembly on 15 October to discuss the basis of our proposal for reforms to the Constitution.

Managua, 10 October 1993

FSLN Meets With Economic Cabinet; UNO Fails To Attend

PA0810225893 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Jorge Catin from the "Extravision" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The National Opposition Union, UNO, did not attend the meeting called by the government to explain its economic plan. In line with its policy, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, accepted the invitation from the economic cabinet and announced it will demand exceptional treatment for thousands of small and medium-sized producers.

The government invited UNO and the FSLN to explain the agreements reached with multilateral organizations and what, according to the economic cabinet, will be the second phase of the economic plan. UNO did not attend the meeting, giving the same excuse it gave months ago: As long as the political agenda is not discussed, it will not discuss economic problems.

[Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, in progress] "...economic, not political [words indistinct] who claim they represent the grass roots should interpret the feelings of the grass roots at the top, and not merely their own interests."

Meanwhile, the FSLN did attend the meeting and heard the explanations of the economic cabinet. FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega said the FSLN's economic policy proposals are clear.

[Ortega] "New agreements will soon be signed between the government and international organizations at a time when the crisis has worsened. We will study the agreements the government has been discussing and signing with these organizations, and once again we will define the FSLN's position to the government and international organizations.

"For example, we believe the government should immediately stop confiscating property from producers who are unable to pay their debts. There are banking regulations related to measures aimed at confiscating property from producers and individuals who owe money to banks and are unable to pay. If we really want to encourage production in the immediate future, we should seek ways to renegotiate the debts with all producers."

Commander Ortega also referred to the dialogue between UNO and the FSLN.

[Ortega] "We must make the spirit of dialogue prevail and materialize in specific agreements."

Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger said the government will propose to productive sectors in the country promoting a new phase of the economic phase, giving priority to export products.

[Kruger] "We had to improve all distribution channels and reactivate commerce, which we did. Prices are stable now. Now we must reactivate production, specifically the production of export products. In turn, other sectors will link up with the export train like boxcars, which in turn will increase the level of investments and create more permanent jobs that will gradually resolve the serious unemployment problem in the country."

The government announced there will be a seminar to discuss the economic plan. A list of participants was distributed, which included the names of foreign advisers and cabinet members, but very few Nicaraguan economists. Otton Solis, who wrote a document criticizing the government economic policy, is not on the official list.

Economic Plan Failure Agreed

PA0910015393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Oct 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the National Opposition Union [UNO] last night agreed, after meeting for six hours and 30 minutes, that the government's economic plan has failed and that it is necessary to develop a new and integral plan and to change the economic team.

At 2215 hours, at the secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate, FSLN and UNO representatives agreed also that "the Armed Forces must have a national and professional nature and be structured, with emphasis on the country's economic capability and social needs."

They also agreed that the Army commander will retire once the Military Organization Law is promulgated and in the framework of the national agreement "we are promoting."

The document, which establishes a common agenda, was read by Dr. Miriam Arguello, of the Conservative Popular Alliance [APC]. The agreement also envisages the integral solution of the legislative branch problem, the property issue, and constitutional aspects.

FSLN National Directorate member Sergio Ramirez said the agreements were "historical," because for the first time the two political groups are discussing specific issues that are essential for the country's political stability.

The request to change the government's economic team "is a political position for the FSLN and the UNO. We are not asking for someone's head."

The FSLN National Directorate will meet this morning with representatives of multilateral organizations to expound its position on the economic plan.

The UNO and FSLN also issued an appeal to President Chamorro, urging her to comply with the agreements signed on 24 September with the National Transportation Commission, whose representatives talked with the two organizations during a recess in the meeting.

The transportation representatives reported a noncompliance with the agreements, and they announced that a march was scheduled for today, from the Construction and Transportation Ministry to the Presidency of the Republic.

Moreover, Commander Daniel Ortega, FSLN secretary general, announced a meeting between the two political groups scheduled for 12 October at UNO headquarters.

UNO Coordinator Duilio Baltodano said that on that occasion they will discuss "the issue of the constituent assembly and partial reforms to the Constitution, and the two delegations will also try to reach an agreement to work on the Constitution's changes based on a consensus."

The FSLN advocates constitutional reforms whereas the UNO has yet to adopt a decision on one of the options, which deals with constitutional issues.

Minutes before signing the document, establishing a five-point agenda, PLC [Liberal Constitutional Party] leader Eliseo Nunez abruptly left the premises, arguing that the constituent assembly issue had not been brought up. A source reported that his sudden departure occurred after he had telephoned PLC Secretary Arnoldo Aleman.

Nunez stayed until the end of the meeting but not when it was time to sign the agreement. Eli Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua, said: "He left due to a minor issue."

Main FSLN-UNO Agreements [subhead]

Regarding economic issues:

- The government's economic plan has failed, which makes a new overall plan necessary to encourage production and investments, allow credits, and create jobs. We demand a new economic team to do this.
- A successful implementation of the new plan requires economic stability and an adequate legal framework that guarantees the citizens' stability and protects properties.
- Any agreement with international financial organizations that brings more unemployment and restricts social services and credit for production is not viable for Nicaragua. External resources must have a priority goal: reactivating the economy rather than paying off the foreign debt's services.
- Regarding the Armed Forces and demilitarization:
- The Army Military Organization Law, which regulates the mechanisms for the military branch's subordination to civilian power, must be based on a consensus between the UNO and the FSLN so that it may be approved by the National Assembly. The current Army chief's retirement will occur once this law is promulgated and within the framework of the National Agreement we endorse.
- The National Police must have an eminently professional character, and it will be organized according to the country's social needs. Its regulations must be approved by the National Assembly.
- The UNO and FSLN will join efforts to sponsor civilians' total disarmament and demilitarization and to pledge the whole society and its organizations in a permanent campaign to eradicate forever the use of weapons and violence for the solution to national conflicts.

Government Asks for 95-Percent Pardon of Foreign Debt

PA1110013693 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Text] The government has asked multilateral organizations to pardon 95 percent of its foreign debt—which is estimated at $9 billion. At the same time, it announced it is negotiating two loans for approximately $230 million with the IMF and World Bank (WB).

Central Bank President Evenor Taboada and Finance Minister Emilio Pereira made the announcement upon returning from Washington, where they attended the annual meeting of WB and IMF governors held in that city last week.

Taboada and Pereira later joined the delegation, headed by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, which attended the UN General Assembly in New York last week. At the United Nations, President Chamorro issued a dramatic call to the international community to continue supporting Nicaragua, a country afflicted by "hunger and hatred."

Taboada said the government delegation asked the IMF and WB to pardon 95 percent of Nicaragua's foreign debt, because the country does not generate enough funds to pay it and foreign resources are declining.

After assuming power, Chamorro's government received a large amount of foreign aid, but according to Nicaraguan Government officials most of that aid was used to pay the foreign debt acquired by the previous government headed by Daniel Ortega in the so-called "lost decade" of the 1980's.

A top Central Bank official told journalists that the country does not generate enough resources to pay the debt and therefore has requested that the debt inherited from the previous governments be pardoned.

Taboada said that the success of this request will depend on the type of creditor Nicaragua has in the Paris Club. He added that in case there are no creditors in that forum, the government will have to conduct "bilateral negotiations."

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Pereira brought refreshing news for Nicaragua. He announced that two loans are being negotiated to support the economic stabilization plan which, according to experts, was in danger due to a lack of funds.

Pereira added that a "preliminary agreement" was reached at the IMF and WB annual meeting by which the two projects will be presented at a meeting of Nicaraguan economists for their discussion in order to arrive at a consensus on the matter.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 or 8 October, prior to a meeting with members of the international community of donors [comunidad internacional de cooperantes].

After the meeting, Nicaraguan economists will study three important points regarding a revision of banking interest rates, credit for exports, and the parity of the exchange rate, as well as aspects related to budget austerity.

Nicaragua also confirmed that the German Government will support a loan to be given by the WB and that $30 million will be received from Taiwan, as well as funds from Nordic countries to be invested in repairing rural roads, estimated at $40 million.

World Bank Says No

PA1110014093 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Oct 93 p 10

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] Ulrich Laechler, World Bank representative in Nicaragua, told BARRICADA that it is "virtually impossible" for the Nicaraguan Government to have its foreign debt written off by international organizations.

During their visit to Washington last week, the ministers of the economic cabinet initiated the negotiations to have the international community write off "at least" 95 percent of Nicaragua's foreign debt, Central Bank President Jose Evenor Taboada has reported.

Asked about this, Laechler, however, said "there is no flexibility regarding the refinancing of the debt servicing" simply because the World Bank and IMF member countries will not permit it. This possibility is closed as far as the multilateral organizations are concerned." He said that, nevertheless, Nicaragua's debt with the Paris Club member countries, some 20, as well as Nicaragua's commercial debt, "can be discussed."

Laechler commented on a memorandum released by the External Cooperation Ministry, published by BARRICADA on Monday, saying most of the funds the World Bank has delivered to Nicaragua have been returned to the same bank to pay for the foreign debt interest. This is what economists call a negative flow.

"We must bear in mind that the country's payments are overdue and that financial institutions will not lend again unless they collect first. If you regard this as a repayment, the result is a negative flow. If you consider it as something necessary to get more loans, however, then the flow is positive, because to this money must be added the new funds that the World Bank has delivered," Laechler said.

Central Bank President Taboada said it is very important for Nicaragua to have its debt written off because this would make it possible to free funds for the country's economic reactivation. Nicaragua's total debt is close to $10 billion, broken down more or less this way: 20 percent to commercial banks; 15 percent to multilateral organizations; 25 percent to the Paris Club, and 40 percent with the East European countries, particularly Russia and Germany.

The $15 billion that Nicaragua owes multilateral organizations earn 0.5 percent annual interest and must be amortized within 40 years.

Foreign Minister 'Optimistic' About U.S. Aid

PA0810163793 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Claudia Sirias for the "National" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Upon returning from the United States, Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said he is optimistic U.S. aid will be disbursed this month. He said the international community has been receptive to the government of President Chamorro, as a support group for Nicaragua is being formed.

[Leal] "This will be a high-level group made up of countries I already mentioned. The members of the group would visit Nicaragua several times a year—three or four times a year—to review our needs for cooperation and particularly the implementation of the adjustment plan. They would also seek ways to compensate the social effects of the implementation of the adjustment plans."

Leal expressed satisfaction with the progress in efforts to unblock the aid.

[Leal] "After our talks with the U.S. Administration, we believe the aid could be disbursed in October."

He also commented on the amendment proposed by the Democrats, which outlines some conditions for U.S. aid in 1994, such as international investigations on the Santa Rosa arsenal and the solution of the property problem.

[Leal] "The amendment introduced by the Democrats says that the secretary of state must certify that significant progress has been made in those areas. It does not mean that all properties demanded by U.S. citizens must be indemnified or returned at a given time. We do not see any reason to worry about that amendment, because it is part of what we are doing, it is part of our agenda, objectives, and actions. Therefore, we see no problem in that."

On another subject, Leal said he has not yet received the official resolution from the Bolivian court on Antonio Ibarra's case.

[Leal] "We have read in dispatches from EFE and other news agencies about the Supreme Court decision. We will wait for an official notification so that our judicial authorities—the Judicial Branch in this case—can study it. We will maintain close communication with our judicial authorities in order to decide our next step."

Panama

Government Deports 27 Illegal Aliens to Hong Kong

PA1010163393 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] The Immigration Department of the Government and Justice Ministry deported yesterday 27 Asian nationals who arrived in Panama with false tourist visas.

This could be the first step in uncovering an international network devoted to this illegal activity in which Panamanian persons or companies could be involved.

According to information supplied by Yamileth Corro, administrative director of Immigration, the Chinese citizens from Hong Kong arrived yesterday morning from Caracas, Venezuela, on a LACSA flight. When checking the visa authorizations, Immigration authorities realized that the visa formats did not coincide with the documents' original copy. Corro indicated that for the past several months the Immigration Department has been following up on information on altered visas.

Although the investigating officials do not yet know where the illegal visas are being fabricated, they appear to have been issued by the Panamanian Consul in Bangkok, Thailand. The administrative director of the Government Ministry department did not rule out the possibility that Panamanian companies or persons are involved.

The illegal aliens say that in Hong Kong they were sold an airline ticket for $3,500 through a travel agency located in Panama City on Via Espana (name was not given). They also had to pay $1,500 for an alleged visa.

Authorities began the investigations yesterday while the 27 Asians were being deported to Hong Kong. Panama was the final leg of the Hong Kong-London-Caracas-Panama City trip.

Canal Administrator Guardia on U.S. Role in Canal Transfer

PA0810153493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0921 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Madrid, 8 Oct (EFE)—Panama Canal Administrator Gilberto Guardia expressed his conviction here today that the United States will comply totally with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties of 1977 and will not pose any last-minute terms to turn over the interoceanic waterway. "My opinion is that the U.S. Government, not only through words, but deeds, is showing its intention and interest to honor the treaties," the Panamanian engineer told EFE.

Guardia, who is in Spain to attend the Panama Tribune event organized at the Casa de America, also noted that "I do not see the possibility of the United States, because of the result of the electoral process that ends in May 1994, engaging in a violation of the treaties." The official who is in charge of the Canal's administration said that "if they are contemplating such a possibility" they would not be dismantling the military bases on the isthmus, as they are doing.

On the possibility that the Canal transfer may occur before 1999, he said: "From a political standpoint, if the date is moved up that would be of merit, because it would be an additional achievement. From a practical point of view, however, that might prove unwise," because if the Canal transfer date is moved up, it would prevent Panama from taking full advantage of "the experience and stock of knowledge" of the U.S. citizens employed by the Canal.

In this sense, Guardia noted that the process to transfer technical and supervisory posts from U.S. to Panamanian citizens is going at a good pace, because the Panamanian labor force in the Canal presently stands at 88 percent. The process to transfer posts cannot be given "on the basis of violating the rights of (U.S.) citizens of the Canal" to favor Panamanians, according to Guardia. "It is rather emotional that by 31 December 1999 all (employees) will be Panamanian, although that is not really the most important thing. The most important thing is that the Canal may function effectively smoothly and render a valuable service for international trade," he noted.

Guardia stressed the need for a law to be approved to replace the U.S. legislation on the Canal as of 1999 and which must include laws on the right to strike. The administrator came out in favor of maintaining the strike prohibition in the Canal, because the interoceanic waterway "must be secure and open to its users" and, also "it is necessary so that the Canal can maintain the credibility it now has."

Regarding the future defense system of the Canal after the U.S. Southern Command troops leave their bases, he said that "today the U.S. troops in Panama really do not provide security for the Canal, because there is no type of threat that would require armies to defend it." In this sense, he stressed that the Canal Commission, "in spite of the fact that it is a U.S. agency," maintains "closer coordination with the Panamanian National Police than with the U.S. Army" on matters pertaining to security.

On the possibility that the United Nations will guarantee the Canal's security, he noted that he is "in full agreement" with this idea and with the proposal that "an international agreement be established wherein all the countries of the world state that in the event of a threat that would require armies from abroad," this would always be "in extraordinary cases and at the request of the Republic of Panama."

Regarding the proposal to build a third set of locks, which was approved in September by a Japanese-U.S.-Panamanian commission, he said that "it is an alternative that cannot be carried out as long as resources are unavailable. As long as the demand for transiting of the Panama Canal does not require enlarging the Panama Canal, it would not be feasible to enlarge it, because it would imply burdening the country with debts," he said.

Although the Commission estimates its construction in the second decade of the century, "estimates of the self-same Canal estimate an even longer period, in the third decade, probably," the Panamanian engineer stated.

Argentina

German Foreign Minister Kinkel Arrives, Meets Menem

PY0810153793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1422 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Oct (NA)—Today, Argentine President Carlos Menem met with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, with whom he discussed bilateral relations.

The meeting took place at the Olivos presidential residence. Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella, Argentine Ambassador to Germany Roberto Guyen, and German Ambassador to Argentina Wilgand Pabsch attended the meeting.

This afternoon Kinkel will go to the Argentine Council for International Relations (ARI), where he will lecture on German foreign policy following the reunification.

Holds News Conference

PY1210023793 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Oct 93 p 7

[Article by Michael Soltys]

[Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel wrapped up his two-day visit to Argentina with a message of Latin America's political, economic and cultural importance for Germany.

At a press conference yesterday morning, Kinkel pointed out that Latin America already enjoyed the biggest German investments in the world after Europe and on that basis defended the slender German interest in Argentine privatization, adding forthrightly that German business executives did not consider Argentine investments to be sufficiently lucrative and that Latin American countries should do something to attract investors. Nevertheless, he thought that German business leaders should organize the same special panels they now have for Asia.

Kinkel equally tackled the question of xenophobia in Germany almost before it was asked, stating that he had met DAIA [Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations] Jewish community leaders on the subject while here—he said that Germans felt "ashamed" of the sporadic racist outbursts in their country but were showing that they had learned from their past. The Free Democrat leader also supplied a few figures to place the problem in perspective, pointing out that there had been 400,000 asylum-seekers this year and that Germany had accepted a similar number of refugees from the Balkans, twice as many as all other European countries put together.

On the political front, Kinkel said that he had discussed Germany's ambitions for a Security Council seat with the presidents and foreign ministers of Brazil and Argentina; Germany also believed in a permanent Latin American representation on the Security Council. In general, Kinkel thought that dialogue should be multiplied with this part of the world.

The minister refused to consider the possibility that the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks might not be settled by December 15 and went on record as saying that Germany did not want to strangle the Blair House accord but had a special commitment to France.

As for the cultural field, Kinkel said the German cultural presence in Latin America was the strongest in the world with 39 German-language schools and 22 Goethe Institutes.

Both Kinkel-himself and the conference of German ambassadors in Latin America he came to chair were strong on the social problems of the continent. While recognizing the process of reform in the region, Kinkel said Latin America had its share of unsolved social problems in an unjust world. He stressed the concept of "help for self-help."

Finally, Kinkel highlighted drug control and environmental technology as two special areas for future relations.

Kinkel was accompanied on his trip by several Bundestag deputies and important business leaders.

The ambassadors conference concluded with 14 theses concerning support for political dialogue, democratic reform, human rights, the growing importance of multilateral organizations and regional integration, economic openness, technological co-operation, environmental protection, mutual cultural presence and opposition to drugs.

UK Envoy on Opposition to 'Argentina's Rearmament'

PY0810141493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2229 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Oct (NA)—British Ambassador to Argentina Peter Hall said today that Great Britain "will continue to oppose Argentina's rearmament" because his country "still remembers what happened in 1982" during the war over the Malvinas Islands.

The diplomat emphatically rejected President Carlos Menem's desire that the islands return to Argentine sovereignty before the year 2000, and also confirmed that the British embargo on the sale of weapons to Argentina "continues in force." Hall made this statement during a news conference held at the British Embassy in this capital, 15 days after replacing Humphrey Maud.

The new ambassador said that the islanders' opinion "is important" to his country, and that the issue of the islands' sovereignty "will remain under the protective umbrella." After refusing to comment on domestic issues, such as the recent elections, Hall denied that the fishing issue in the South Atlantic is "unfavorable" to Argentina.

UK Firm Offers Radars Despite Government Opposition

PY1010021893 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 9

[Text] The Defense Ministry has closed a deal with a British firm, Smith Industries, to purchase Westinghouse radars to equip the Skyhawk A-4M aircraft purchased from the United States. The operation in itself is a paradox: The United Kingdom opposed the inclusion of these radars in the sale of the aircraft but now a private British enterprise has offered to sell them. This contradiction might be solved by the U.S. Administration, which must still approve the deal for it to materialize.

Only two days after Defense Minister Oscar Camilion announced that he would insist before Washington on being able to acquire the Westinghouse radars to operate the Skyhawk aircraft, his ministry reached an agreement with Smith Industries to purchase the aforementioned radars for approximately $250 million.

However, the deal will not be closed until the U.S. Government approves it. The United States refused to provide this type of radar at the express request of the British who are against Argentine rearmament following the war over the Malvinas. The new British ambassador to Buenos Aires, Peter Hall, yesterday ratified the British position. The United States was offering instead the old Emerson radars, which cannot be modernized according to the Argentine Air Force.

The selection of a British company puts additional pressure on the United States. The Defense Ministry had a second offer up its sleeve, from an Israeli company. Washington, however, has the last say in the matter. Minister Camilion will travel to Washington at the end of this month.

Defense Minister: Argentina 'Not in an Arms Race'

PY1010022693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Oct (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today asserted that Argentina "is not in an arms race." It is only "trying to make the Armed Forces situation more reasonable."

At the end of the 11th Seminar on Borders Against Drugs and Drug Trafficking, which is organized by the National Border Police, Minister Camilion emphasized: "This is so true that we are about to purchase planes from the 1970's."

Asked about British Ambassador Peter Hall's comments opposing Argentine rearmament, the defense minister said that "it is good to hear it said that Argentina is rearming itself, i.e., that it is recovering the weapons it has lost."

Camilion said that Argentina has shown its goodwill by stopping the implementation of the Condor plan, reorganizing its Marine Corps, and maintaining inactive the "25 May" aircraft carrier, which is currently anchored at Belgrano Port.

He also said that the British Government's decision to ban the sale of weapons to Argentina is "an anachronistic attitude that does not suit our current reality."

Concluding, Camilion referred to sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and asserted that Argentina has "a very clear point of view" about the issue. He declined, however, to comment on what could happen in the future.

Foreign Ministry Communique Protests PRC Nuclear Test

PY0810131893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0221 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Oct (EFE)—The Argentine Government today joined the "strong" international "protest" against a nuclear test recently conducted by the People's Republic of China.

A communique issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry points out that this test "represents a negative element in enhancing international peace and security." The communique adds that the resumption of nuclear tests by the Beijing regime "might complicate prospects for achieving a treaty completely banning nuclear explosions, a treaty that Argentina firmly supports."

The test, conducted in a desert area of the PRC, and which elicited a strong reaction from U.S. President Bill Clinton, "goes against the constructive unilateral decision not to conduct these kinds of tests that was made by the rest of the nuclear powers in order to favor negotiations for such a momentous agreement."

The Argentine communique concludes in pointing out that the government's stance was formally conveyed today to PRC Ambassador to Argentina Tang Yonggui.

UCR Deputy Urges Diplomatic Status for PLO

PY1110214593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2344 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Oct (NA)—Radical Civic Union [UCR] Deputy Daniel Salvador has submitted a bill whereby it asks the executive branch to grant the current PLO delegation "the same status as the other embassies accredited in Argentina."

Salvador—who belongs to the pro-Alfonsin group in Congress and has aligned himself with [UCR deputy] Leopoldo Moreau in the Province of Buenos Aires—

based his initiative on the peace agreement signed between the PLO and Israel in Washington last 13 September.

"Reality has imposed the legitimacy of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people at an international level. Our government should thus act accordingly by taking appropriate measures geared to granting diplomatic status to the representation of the PLO in Argentina," he added.

Salvador pointed out that the PLO "has diplomatic relations with 110 countries, among which one should underscore the recognition of the Holy See and the United Nations."

He then recalled a public statement by President Carlos Menem, who said that "Argentina had something to do with it, because by furthering a constant dialogue it had its share" in the peace process in the Middle East.

Salvador further stated that "the postponement of such a decision would go against the spirit arising from the historic agreement. Besides, only those who are skeptical about peace and the agents of hatred, resentment, and domination of peoples are bound to impugn this decision."

UK Invites Falkland Veterans To Testify on War Crimes

PY1010013193 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 15

[Text] The British Consulate in Buenos Aires has sent individual letters to Malvinas War veterans inviting them to testify—beginning 18 October—before Scotland Yard representatives about alleged war crimes commited during the war in the South Atlantic.

The Federation of War Veterans, in turn, has issued a communique requesting that, in reciprocity, the Federal Police be authorized to interrogate British soldiers and forensic experts to inspect the bodies of Argentine soldiers buried in the Malvinas.

The letter, signed by British Consul Avril Great Rex, explains that the inquiries will be carried out with the cooperation of Argentine authorities and "under the sovereignty formula agreed on in the Madrid Declaration of 19 October 1989."

The letter also notes that the testimony is not compulsory, merely voluntary, and that it will not be under oath nor will it imply the need to travel to Great Britain in the future to testify before the Court.

Seized Uruguayan Fishing Vessel Remains Under Guard

PY1110225293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1237 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Mar del Plata, 11 Oct (NA)—The Uruguayan fishing vessel Zurdy-1 remained at the local port today, guarded by the Naval Coast Guard, after being captured by the Coast Guard "Thompson" while fishing in the zone of Punta Rasa, in the extreme south of Samborombom Bay.

The sighting and capture of the vessel occurred Friday, 8 October, when the Uruguayan crew was caught red-handed while engaged in illegal fishing activities.

According to reliable sources, the Uruguayan fishermen reportedly said they were there "because of radar failure" which did not allow them to establish their true position in the sea.

Coast Guard officials avoided contact with the press, although they reported that "according to the provisions of Law 17500, the crew may not disembark from the ship."

Unofficially, Navy officials reported that the Uruguayan consul to this city, Maria de los Angeles Telles de Diaz, met with local Coast Guard officials to learn about the situation of the 18 arrested Uruguayans.

Navy Confirms Participation in NATO Exercises

PY1110223593 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] Following the announcement made by the defense minister concerning Argentine participation in joint military operations with NATO forces, a high-ranking Navy source not only confirmed this, but also added that an Argentine Navy "task force" will travel to the northern hemisphere next year to take part in naval exercises with units from the U.S. Navy.

These units would include, in principle, a surface vessel and a submarine, although no technical information was supplied concerning them, as the operation is only in its initial phase.

The maneuvers, which go by the name of Fleetex, are a step forward for the Argentine Navy—who had their baptism by fire during the Persian Gulf war—in achieving a more thorough professional training. As a consequence of that participation in the Gulf war, the Argentine forces saw the need for readiness for any possible participation in "ad hoc" coalitions under the auspices of the United Nations.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is the only international military organization that maintains a command structure and creditable operational control and capacity.

Because of the lack of a similar organization within the framework of the United Nations, should an international crisis arise the United Nations would probably resort to this organization to put together a military coalition, under its auspices.

With the goal of being in the best possible position to participate and operate on an equal professional footing with possible members of an international coalition or operation, Argentine Navy officials considered it imperative to achieve the maximum possible level of "interoperativity" with other navies, seeking NATO standards as basic objectives.

The "Fleetex" exercises are surface, air, and underwater naval maneuvers carried out off the coast of the United States and in Caribbean waters.

'Government Source' Claims Plans for Plebiscite 'Abandoned'

PY0710153593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2337 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Oct (NA)—A high-ranking government source reported tonight that the government has definitely abandoned the idea of calling for a plebiscite to consult the public on the need to amend the Constitution.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that for the government and its top leaders "the plebiscite has already been held, on 3 October" considering the "exceptional" results achieved that day in the ballot boxes.

He said that a last-minute analysis made at top government level established that the tremendous support given to the government of President Carlos Menem last Sunday had led to it being considered "inappropriate" to force a plebiscite.

Over the past few days, and more precisely after the Sunday elections, officials from several government offices admited that the plebiscite was "only another possibility, but not the only one," to force a constitutional amendment.

"But the Sunday electoral result has surprised us all," the source said sincerely. He considered that result "the true plebiscite," which will allow the government to strengthen a dialogue with the opposition to achieve the reform at congressional level.

Menem Reaffirms 'No Changes' in Cabinet

PY0710211393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1644 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Oct (NA)—This morning, all cabinet members applauded President Carlos Menem at the beginning of a meeting at the Situation Hall of Government House in recognition of his recent electoral victory. The president reiterated that "there will be no changes" in the cabinet.

For his part, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo complained before the cabinet and the president about the indebtedness of some provinces, which might be negotiating credits abroad at high rates without making the adjustment promoted by the Finance Ministry.

Media Secretary Raul Burzaco reported that the meeting began with a commendation to Menem for his electoral victory. Menem asked the ministers to be "humble" in their work, urging them to "continue to work for the Social Plan."

The president ruled out the possibility of replacing cabinet members on the grounds that "if we are doing fine this way, why should we change?" Menem then asked Interior Minister Carlos Ruckhauf to read the report on the elections.

Later on, with the presence of Jorge Matzkin, head of the Justicialist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, and chamber President Alberto Pierri, Cavallo read a report on the indebtedness of provinces. Cavallo reportedly complained that "some provinces are not implementing the state reform, and they are even asking for loans abroad." Menem emphasized that the economy minister and the provincial economy ministers should meet in order to talk about the issue.

Concerning the so-called lawsuit industry, Cavallo said the state has paid some $1.5 billion annually since 1984 in compensation to lawyers as a result of the lawsuits it is facing.

Justice Minister Jorge Maiorano read to his peers the text of an interview, of which he distributed copies, he granted yesterday about the Supreme Court, in which he emphasizes: "The matter is limited to the court."

In turn, Labor Minister Enrique Rodriguez and Health Minister Alberto Mazza evaluated their work within the Social Plan, emphasizing that there is little to be done in the area because most government dispositions have been complied with. The president then urged them to propose new projects.

Menem Distances Himself From Cavallo 'Charges'

PY0810151593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Oct (NA)—Today President Carlos Menem distanced himself from the serious charges leveled by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo against two Supreme Court justices and reiterated that the solution to the crisis affecting the court "will not be solved by the executive branch."

Asked whether he had instructed the economy minister to publicly denounce court justices Augusto Belluscio and Enrique Patracchi, the chief of state answered dryly: "Ask Cavallo." Menem said he does not advise his ministers to make charges or comments. He said: "The ministers are completely free to express their opinions."

The chief of state made these brief comments during his visit to the new building of the Argentine Business University (UADE). [passage omitted]

Resignation, Impeachment Seen as Court Choices

PY0810151793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2133 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Oct (NA)—The executive branch "does not see" any other solution to the crisis affecting the Supreme Court of Justice than "the individual decisions by its members" to submit their resignations, or through "the institutional act of impeachment."

This was stated this afternoon by Justice Minister Jorge Maiorano who said, however, that the executive branch "would not request the resignation" of any member of the Supreme Court.

Maiorano said that "the executive branch sees no other solution to this problem." Maiorano added that following the agreement by which the court reconfirmed the ruling against the Central Bank, "there are still a number of irregular situations that have not been clarified." [passage omitted]

PJ Bloc Postpone Constitutional Reform Discussion

PY0810141293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Oct (NA)—The Justicialist [PJ] bloc in the Senate has postponed until 20 October discussion of the issue of constitutional reform, as it has perceived "favorable signals" from the UCR [Radical Civic Union] for resuming talks to achieve an agreement between the two leading political forces. This annoucement was made by PJ senators bloc leader Pedro Molina after a three-hour bloc meeting.

Bolivia

'Sudden Change' in Military Leadership Causes Unrest

PY0910003793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1927 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] La Paz, 7 Oct (EFE)—President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's unexpected replacement of Bolivian Armed Forces commanders last night surprised the military, which according to the local press, attempted to rebel. The president decided to make the sudden changes on the night of 6 October.

The replacement of military commanders coincided with new reports of illegal arms trafficking, in Bolivia's name, with the former Yugoslav Republic. The reports involved former military chiefs who currently are being investigated by the Attorney General's Office.

Air Force General Fernando Sanjines was named new Armed Forces commander, replacing Army General Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti. Army General Moises Chiriqui took over as the commander in chief of the general staff, replacing General Hernan Lara. The new commanders of the three Armed Forces branches are: Army Commander General Reynaldo Caceres; Air Force Commander General Jose Perez Reyes Ortiz; and Navy Commander Vice Admiral Julio Molina. The press said President Sanchez de Lozada swore in the five new commanders in an "improvised ceremony not in accordance with protocol rules" at Government House.

The Bolivian head of state announced the upcoming implementation of the decree regulating the executive branch reforms, that includes changes in the military leadership. The new military chiefs were urged to use the resources allocated to them in the budget "honestly and efficiently."

The sudden change was considered "natural" in official circles, but the media stressed various possible causes that were pointed out "by military sources who did not want to identify themselves." HOY reports that at the Miraflores garrison, where the offices of the commander in chief and the Army are located, "high-ranking Army officers attempted a mutiny when they realized there had been changes in the military leadership structure."

According to LA RAZON, Chiriqui was one of the first military chiefs to arrive at Government House before the changes. Chiriqui, however, left half an hour later "with a very serious look." The Cochabamba morning paper LOS TIEMPOS asserted that there is a notorious discontent "among middle-rank officers almost violating institutional discipline," not only due to the persistent reports of "dirty businesses" involving various military chiefs but also "discontent for not receiving their salaries" in September. The newspaper adds that "the straw that broke the camel's back" was the fact that one Army battalion participated in antinarcotics operations without a presidential permission. "We cannot have peace, territorial integration, or democracy without the Armed Forces," the Bolivian president said during the swearing-in ceremony of the new military chiefs.

According to JATHA News Agency, Sanjines, the new commander in chief, who also is being investigated for alleged administrative irregularities at the Bolivian Air Transports (TAB) company, committed all his efforts to making sure the military institution will effectively support the changes programed by the government.

Armed Forces Deny Unrest Rumors

PY1010020493 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces today reiterated their obedience to the civil power and the Constitution, thus denying rumors of unrest as a result of recent changes in the military leadership.

The presence of members of high-ranking commands, who are leaving their positions and of those who are being installed, was interpreted as a denial of rumors that there is unrest within the Armed Forces as a result of these changes. Both commands attended the ceremony commemorating the Bolivian victory in Nancauazu. The presence of the general staff members transmitted a feeling of unity among the members of the Armed Forces and of compliance with the national Constitution. [passage omitted]

The presence of the defense minister and the members of the highest military leadership, who are leaving their positions and of those who have been installed, confirmed that there is no split or unrest within the Armed Forces. Defense Minister Antonio Cespedes explained to the press that all is well within the Armed Forces.

[Begin Cespedes recording] As the president of the Republic has explained, the change has occurred in accordance with the instructions of the cabinet and seeks to implement changes in the country. These changes have been made in strict compliance with the government orders and in keeping with the armed forces organizational law and internal regulations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The changes recently implemented by the Government Palace did not disturb the Armed Forces. This was said by former Armed Forces Commander Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti.

[Begin Vargas recording] The president has used the power bestowed upon him by the Constitution and the military, and the Armed Forces, in general, respect and comply with this decision based on the Constitution. Therefore, any rumor of unrest or threat to the democratic institutions must be definitively discarded. [passage omitted]

General Vargas Lorenzetti also denied any relation between the changes in the military leadership and their alleged involvement in weapons smuggling.

Government Denies Suspension of COB Dialogue

PY1010011593 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] In the Bolivian Government's opinion, the dialogue with the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, has not been suspended, at least not officially. The cabinet today had a long meeting to discuss ways to resume the dialogue with the workers. President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada is concerned. He was concerned when he arrived at the Government Palace this morning. The COB issue, the dismissals, and the strikes are worrying the government. As a result, the president summoned an immediate cabinet meeting. The faces of the ministers and those who usually attend meetings with President Sanchez Lozada, including the vice president and the Senate president, also showed concern. At the end of the cabinet meeting, the executive branch showed a certain optimism. Social Communications Minister Hermann Antelo said that the dialogue with the COB has not been suspended.

[Begin Antelo recording] I believe there is misinformation about the issue because there is no formal evidence that the dialogue has been suspended. The government only temporarily interrupted the dialogue. We are resuming contacts with the COB. The labor minister has been asked to schedule another meeting to continue the dialogue which, as I said, was temporarily interrupted. We have a plan to discuss with the COB and we believe this plan is the answer to the various problems being discussed. We are simply waiting for the dialogue to be resumed. [end recording]

Minister Antelo said the government has a plan to discuss with the COB, but he did not want to comment on the contents of the plan.

[Begin Antelo recording] I am very sorry, but I cannot comment on it because we believe we should first discuss it with the COB. We do not know how it will be received. We will only report on it after the government has discussed it with the COB. [end recording]

The march scheduled by the COB was staged today. According to the labor union leaders, the government is to blame for the suspension of the dialogue.

After demonstrating for more than an hour at San Francisco Square and listening to speeches delivered by COB leaders and representatives of the unions in the companies from which workers are being dismissed, the demonstrators began to march through the streets of La Paz. Union leaders, railway company workers, National Telecommunications Enterprise employees, plant workers, and miners marched, protesting the dismissal of state-owned companies' workers. [slogans, songs can be heard]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The government stated that yesterday it wanted to present a plan that would have solved the dismissal problem, but you did not want to listen to it.

[COB Secretary General Oscar Salas] It is regrettable that high-ranking officials resort to untruthful statements and thus fool the public. The labor minister is not speaking the truth.

[Reporter] What can you say about Minister Antelo's statement that the government has not broken relations with the working class and that they will continue dialoguing?

[Salas] This is the policy of an administration that has no sensitivity toward its people's needs and prefers to comply with the orders of the international organizations and let the Bolivian people starve. No other interpretation can be given to what is being done in the country.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the dismissals?

[Salas] According to the figures in our possession, which are not the definitive ones, more than 6,000 workers have already been dismissed.

[Reporter] According to the union leaders, last night the government, through the labor minister, did not present any plan to solve the dismissal problem and continues to assert that the dismissals are necessary for the reorganization of the companies.

[Salas] Well, yesterday we clearly told the government that, if the government wants to hold a false dialogue with the workers while taking measures against them, we will resume this sort of dialogue. [end recording]

During the demonstration, it was also reported that members of the police are controlling the railway stations and forcing the workers who are on indefinite strike to drive the locomotives.

Catholic Church Sustains Another Bomb Attack

PY1110153493 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Report by Edwin Mallon from Cochabamba]

[Text] For the massive audience of the La Hora del Pais program, we want to confirm another bomb attack—this time at the front door of the Cristo Rey church in Villa Galindo. The explosion reportedly occurred at 0605 this morning. It is not yet known how much damage the church sustained. No victims have been reported and no pamphlets were discovered at the site.

We repeat, a bomb attack was carried out against the Cristo Rey church in Villa Galindo in this [departmental] capital.

Brazil

Baena Soares Suffers Brain Ischemia Attack

PY1210023093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 11 Oct (EFE)—Brazilian medical sources confirmed today that on 10 October OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares suffered an attack of brain ischemia, not a heart attack, which affected his ability to speak. The sources said that on 10 October Brazilian citizen Baena Soares was taken to a hospital in the Amazon region city of Belem, in Para State.

Baena Soares' brain problem is a consequence of the physical effort of participating in and walking for over five hours in the Our Lady of Nazare procession. The religious ceremony in Belem on 10 October is one of the most important religious festivities in Brazil. It was attended by 1.5 million believers.

The SBT Television Network had claimed that the OAS secretary general was interned in a hospital on 11 October in the Amazon region city of Belem after suffering a minor heart attack, adding that his condition was stable. Physicians working at the hospital where the diplomat was interned denied the news aired by SBT, but confirmed that he had suffered an attack of brain ischemia.

The brain ischemia is a circulatory problem produced by an sharp drop in the amount of blood that gets to the brain as a consequence of arteriosclerosis, which can cause cerebral problems if it occurs frequently and repeatedly. The medical personnel confirmed, however, that Baena Soares is out of danger and might be able to leave the hospital soon.

Baena Soares lost the ability to speak as a consequence of the attack, but doctors treating him expect him to recover it in a few days. Baena Soares must remain under medical observation while the physicians treating him make sure that the ischemia affecting the speaking area of the brain is transitory.

The OAS secretary was in Belem, northeast of Brazil, coordinating details for the annual OAS General Assembly, which will take place in June next year. The diplomat took advantage of his visit to the city to participate in the festivities of Our Lady of Nazare, which was also attended by well-known Brazilian politicians such as the current governors of the states of Para and Maranhao, Jader Barbalho and Edilson Lobao respectively, former President Jose Sarney, and former Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia.

Itamaraty Note to PRC Protests Nuclear Tests

PY0910225193 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Itamaraty Secretary General Roberto Abdenur forwarded a note from the Brazilian Government to the PRC Government deploring the fact that the PRC is conducting nuclear tests. Abdenur has been the Brazilian ambassador to the PRC for the last five years and is in Beijing saying farewell to the local authorities and the diplomatic corps.

President Itamar Franco's administration supports the nuclear test moratorium being respected, so far, by the United States, Russia, and France. Brazil has also joined the Tlatelolco Treaty that forbids the use of nuclear weapons in Latin America.

Germany's Kinkel on Relations, Unification Process

PY0810200093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Oct 93 p 24

["Exclusive" interview with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel by Graca Magalhaes-Ruether in Bonn—date not given]

[Text] [Magalhaes-Ruether] What are the priority issues of Germany's new foreign policy for Latin American and, especially, Brazil?

[Kinkel] With the downfall of the authoritarian regimes, we are faced with a new Latin America. The entire continent enjoys pluralism and an open door policy. For years Latin America was burdened by debt but now it represents a growing region. The continent is making significant progress toward economic integration, especially because of Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. This new situation changes the priorities and opportunities of German foreign policy for this continent. We want to define our international policy with common viewpoints and implement them jointly.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] What do you mean?

[Kinkel] What we want is for several sectors of society to participate in this dialogue, in this cooperation: the political parties and labor unions, the churches and universities, and the media. Germany already has a relationship with Latin America and, especially, with Brazil. What we want is closer cooperation.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] Does the German Government see good prospects for the Brazilian-German nuclear agreement? If Brazil does not sign the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty, will it be possible to continue cooperating in this field?

[Kinkel] The best thing would be for Brazil to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty and the Tlatelolco Treaty banning nuclear weapons in Latin America. Therefore, it is a good thing that Brazil and Argentina have signed with the Brazilian-Argentine control agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency, a four-party agreement for the implementation of broad nuclear safeguards. I am happy to learn that the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies approved this agreement and that it is now being considered by the Senate. Ratification of this agreement will be the cornerstone of our cooperation.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] What problems is Germany currently facing as a result of the unification process?

[Kinkel] Germany's unification took all of us by surprise. We have managed quite well to match the legal and organizational aspects of this process. What we still lack is a domestic unification. The people who lived in what up to 1990 was the GDR were confronted from one day to the next with a very different world; with a world in which people have to push their way through, in a consumer society that has more problems than it thinks.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] Would the economic problem be the worst problem?

[Kinkel] The capital reserve of the FRG's new states was much smaller then expected. Therefore, the German unification process is much more than an economic-financial problem. We have to unite people who for 40 years lived separated by an impermeable border and lived completely different experiences and in different worlds. This is a very painful process for all.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] Is the violence of the neo-Nazi youths in Germany dangerous? What is the federal government doing about this problem?

[Kinkel] Undoubtedly our society, especially the youths, are increasingly inclined to use violence. It would be a terrible mistake to try and find a single reason for this phenomenon. The diagnosis is probably as complex as the phenomenon itself. Politics and the state cannot be the only ones responsible for combating violence. But this does not exempt us from our duty to prevent crimes and create a social climate in which violence and extremist acts are banned.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] Germany's role in world politics changed with the reunification process. How do you view Germany's role, especially in the UN peace-seeking missions throughout the world?

[Kinkel] The united Germany, with more than 80 million inhabitants, is a major economic and technological weight in the center of Europe. But in today's world this does not mean more power and influence but, rather, a greater responsibility. The Germans want to honor this responsibility.

[Magalhaes-Ruether] What about your relationships with the eastern world?

[Kinkel] We want to energetically contribute to European unification. We want to lay the bridge for our eastern neighbors in the economic and safety fields. We strongly uphold free trade and, at a world level, hope for a successful conclusion of the GATT Uruguay Round of Talks this year. We also want to do justice to our responsibility in the North-South relationship. Despite the tasks we are facing in our country and Europe, we continue to be the fourth country in the world in making donations for development purposes. Within the UN framework, we want to contribute to preserving international peace and safety or, in other cases, that it be restored. We are willing to cooperate with human resources in peace-seeking missions.

Condition for Nuclear Cooperation

LD0710191593 Hamburg DPA in German 1420 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Brasilia (DPA)—After 1995, Germany will only help Brazil with the construction of two nuclear power stations if the South American country formally commits itself to using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

This emerged in Brasilia today on the sidelines of the visit by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. The nuclear power station Angra-2, which is still under construction, and the Angra-3 plant west of Rio de Janeiro are to be equipped mainly with German technology. For Angra-2, 85 percent of the parts have already been delivered. Because of financial problems on the Brazilian side, the construction process had been delayed by several years.

Today Kinkel met with his Brazilian counterpart, Celso Amorim. Later he held talks with Itamar Franco, head of state and government. At a meeting with Finance Minister Henrique Cardoso scheduled for later today, the restrictions on foreign capital, which have been criticized by German companies, are likely to be discussed.

Meets Franco, Finance Minister

PY1110211693 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Oct 93 Section 1 p 11

[Text] Yesterday, Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso told German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel that the Brazilian Government is interested in privatizing the Angra system of nuclear power plants. He nonetheless stressed that this decision depends on Congress, and that it would be discussed during the constitutional revision.

Minister Cardoso revealed this when he met with Kinkel, whom he received late in the afternoon yesterday. Kinkel asked about the situation of the Brazilian nuclear project and the resumption of construction on the Angra-2 plant. Cardoso told the German minister that discussion of the project has not reached President Itamar Franco. He also said that resuming the project depends on its financing.

When Kinkel heard this he told Cardoso that his country can finance the Angra construction, but Brazil must first define what it wants from the project. The German minister also said that his country is interested in discussing with Brazil the Nonproliferation Treaty. Cardoso told him that Brazil has already demonstrated that it will use Angra for peaceful purposes only.

When Kinkel asked him about the Brazilian position regarding foreign capital and patent rights, mainly on medicines, Cardoso told him that these issues are being discussed in Congress. Cardoso added that most of the congressmen are willing to discuss the approval of more equitable treatment for foreign capital.

As for patent rights, Cardoso told Kinkel that Brazil is very interested in finding a solution to the problem, but such a solution would hardly be acceptable to the United States, which wants the total acknowledgement of patent rights. Cardoso took the opportunity to ask Kinkel to recommend to German pharmaceutical laboratories operating in Brazil that they reduce the prices of medicines.

Before meeting with Cardoso, Kinkel met with President Itamar Franco. Kinkel defended the need for Congress to modify the chapter on economic order in the Constitution during the constitutional revision period. According to Kinkel, the difficulties that currently exist in allowing foreign capital to enter Brazil may hinder new investments by foreign companies.

Kinkel spoke with the president for approximately 40 minutes, and he himself informed the media about the meeting. The minister told Franco that "the reform should envisage equal treatment for foreign and national capital." He added that "without this equal treatment it will be very difficult to make new investments in Brazil in the future."

The German minister also spoke with the president about finishing construction on the Angra-2 nuclear plant, clearly expressing the interest of the German company Siemens in continuing to participate in the construction.

Kinkel then invited President Franco to visit Germany in December. Franco has not given him an answer. The German minister is supposed to travel this evening to Buenos Aires, where he will meet with all the German ambassadors assigned to South America.

President Franco Cancels Angra-3 Nuclear Plant

PY0910012893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has decided that the construction of the Angra-3 nuclear power plant will not be initiated during his term in office. With regard to the Angra-2 nuclear power plant under construction, the president is waiting for a report being drafted by the Mines, Energy, and Metallurgy Ministry to assess that power plant's situation.

Franco canceled the signature of a contract with Germany that would have guaranteed the appropriation of financial resources for completing the construction of Angra-2, some ($1.5 billion). Mines, Energy, and Metallurgy Minister Paulino Cicero was to have travelled to Germany on 11 October to sign a contract with a consortium of banks to finance the project.

According to presidential spokesman Francisco Baker, the president is awaiting the aforementioned report to assess the feasibility of finishing the construction of the Angra-2 power plant, but he already has decided that Angra-3 will not be built during his presidency.

Angra-2 Nuclear Plant Finishing Agreement Signed

PY1210005493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Oct 93 p B2

[Text] Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc.] President Marcelo Siqueira and Electrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.] President Jose Luis Alqueres have finally signed the $300 million agreement for finishing the construction of the Angra-2 nuclear power plant. This means that for the next five years Electrobras will be poorer and Furnas richer.

The agreement with the Germans, who will disburse the largest part of the funds ($1.3 billion), will be signed in December. They have made it.

Armed Forces Participate in Amazon Region War Games

PY0810011593 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Marcos Losekann from Serra do Machado, Roraima State; name identified by caption]

[Text] Military units from eight countries are participating in the largest military maneuvers ever carried out in the Amazon region by the Brazilian Armed Forces. They are engaged in war games against an imaginary enemy—a country called Cratenia.

Brazilian Air Force fighters cross the Amazon region's skies. Army tanks already are arranged on the battlefield; 5,000 soldiers are being prepared to go into battle. Things came to a head when Cratenia threatened to invade Brazil. Cratenia is an imaginary country created to the north of Roraima State just for the war games.

First, troops are deployed the length of the imaginary border to head off the enemy's advance. Then there is an exchange of shots. Everything is just a mock battle. The Army's aviation unit sends helicopters packed with soldiers to the area. Their mission is to invade the occupied territory. Brazilian soldiers disembark right between two enemy units, one in the rear guard and the other on the front line, near the border. The objective is to prevent communication between the two units—something similar to what the allies did during the Persian Gulf war, which obliged Saddam Husayn's troops to surrender for lack of food. Helicopters support the ground Brazilian forces that charge against the enemy and manage to force their surrender.

AMX Fighters Flown First Time

PY0910015293 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Report by Marcos Losekann from Serra do Machado, Roraima State; name identified by caption]

[Text] The most powerful fighter-bombers in the Brazilian Air Force took off from the Boa Vista Airport to support Brazilian troops in the final battle of the war games. This was the first flight trials for the supersonic AMX, manufactured by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. The AMX's did not have to land for refueling. They were refueled in flight by a C-130 Hercules aircraft. At 950 km per hour, the AMX fighters combed the imaginary enemy country, Cratenia, so that 250 heavily armed Army paratroopers could drop from the aircraft and attack enemy territory. The objective is to attack the enemy on the border area from the rear.

These war games were instrumental in guiding the Armed Forces in its project of a military expansion in the Amazon region. The Army has announced that several battalions headquartered in the south will be transferred to the northern region. Air surveillance will be reinforced with the purchase of radars and helicopters that will be stationed in Manaus. The Armed Forces thus seek to reinforce garrisons and security along the Amazon region's border.

Army Lends Weapons to Rio Military, Federal Police

PY1110153693 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Oct 93 p 11

[Article by Rodrigo Franca Taves and Solange Duarte]

[Text] Over the next few days, the Eastern Military Command will lend the Rio de Janeiro Military Police [PM] many weapons for use against drug traffickers. The Army is just waiting for the formal request from the PM which is ready and waiting processing in the PM general headquarters. The Army will lend the PM 7.62-mm FAL rifles, carbines, and 9-mm submachine guns, beside long-range night vision goggles and bulletproof vests. The FAL rifles, which are used exclusively by the Armed Forces, will be used in urban areas for the first time by the police forces.

With the new arsenal provided by the Army, the PM's firepower will be similar to that of Rio de Janeiro's largest drug-trafficking gangs. All the weapons will be delivered to the Special Operations Battalion (Bope) to be used only on specific occasions. Only the 9-mm submachine guns will be distributed among officers of other units. The Army will provide specialized training to the Bope members and the weapons will be handed out only upon completion of the training course.

The Eastern Military Command considers this weapons delivery as an important contribution to combatting organized crime in Rio de Janeiro State, an indirect contribution given that Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola has not authorized direct Army intervention. So far, the Army has only infiltrated agents among the police to pick up information about the firepower and hideouts of the drug traffickers.

Colonel Luiz Cesario Silveira, chief of the Public Relations office of the Eastern Military Command, has reported that the Rio de Janeiro Federal Police received FAL rifles from the Army this month. The FAL rifle is one of the few weapons capable of confronting the AR-15 rifles confiscated from drug traffickers in the past few months.

There are officers in the PM and Army who do not approve of the police using these weapons. They argue that these weapons are not appropriate for densely populated areas. Rio de Janeiro Civilian Police Secretary Nilo Batista yesterday said that the problem will not be solved with more powerful weapons but with better organized and more intelligent police actions.

Army Confirms Opening of Foreign Credit for Weapons

PY0910233693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Oct 93 p A6

[Article by Julio Ottoboni]

[Text] Boa Vista—Yesterday the Army confirmed the opening of foreign credit lines for the purchase of war materiel. This information had already been disclosed on Wednesday, 6 October, by O ESTADO. According to Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro, since early this week the Industry and Commerce Ministry has been assessing the request to open new credit lines abroad in negotiations related to Brazilian agricultural products.

Among the countries interested in this type of operation are Russia, France, the PRC, and the United States. The credits will be used by the three Armed Force branches and might amount to $1 billion. Zenildo explained that a large portion of the purchase will include light combat weapons for the new units to be established in the Amazon region, as part of the Army's new plan to occupy that region.

The minister also confirmed talks with the French Government for the purchase of light helicopters from the Aerospaciale enterprise through this purchase system. The Army is especially interested in the proposals for the sale of Super Puma helicopters by France. The Armed Forces maintain close commercial ties with the consortium that administers Aerospaciale, the aeronautics industry from which it has acquired 72 Panther helicopters over the past five years. The French Government would grant new credit lines for the Brazilian industry and agricultural fields and might even help close a deal for the sale of 14 radars for the Amazon Region Surveillance System (Sivam).

Zenildo explained that the occupation of the Amazon Region will be carried out by small, but highly trained squads. Zenildo noted the important role the region plays in the country's economic future and noted the need for the military to accompany the population process by creating new units and sending troops to the region. Zenildo said: "The Amazon will become the country's new development center."

The groups that will be transferred from several points of the country will reinforce the four Jungle Infantry Brigades of the Amazon Region located in Tefe, Maraba, Boa Vista, and Porto Velho. Their main task will be to defend the border areas. Brazil has agreed on an intense military exchange with Guyana in order to avoid any possible problems with U.S. maneuvers near Brazilian territory.

In the Army minister's opinion, the Surumu Operation, the largest joint military maneuver ever carried out in the Amazon region, was successful. Yesterday was "D-day" of the maneuver with an air-ground attack staged by 800 paratroopers 220 km from Boa Vista.

Traffic—Zenildo expressed concern over the information disclosed on Wednesday, 6 October, that drug traffickers in the Rio de Janeiro slums have an arsenal of 40,000 weapons. However, he doubts the accuracy of the figures. The possibility of an Army intervention in this state was ruled out, although Zenildo labelled the situation alarming. He commented: "The drug traffickers' weapons are as sophisticated as the Army's."

New Electoral Law Guidelines Published

PY0810202693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Oct 93 p A7

[Text] Brasilia—Ten political parties may launch presidential candidates for next year's elections. The new electoral law, which establishes the rules for the 1994 electoral campaign, was published yesterday in the official gazette. Under this law only political parties with a minimum of 15 federal deputies may run in the presidential election. This is the reason why, during the past two weeks, 42 deputies have changed parties.

Yesterday, the PL [Liberal Party], which ran for the presidency in 1989 with former Deputy Guilherme Afif as its candidate, ran the risk of not being able to participate because it had only 14 deputies and was trying to affiliate another one by midnight, which is the deadline granted by the secretary general of the Chamber of Deputies Board to register any transfers from one party to another. Small parties may launch a candidate for the presidency only if they represent a coalition with a minimum of 15 deputies. Beside the PL, the following six parties are in the same situation: The PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]; the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil]; the PPS [People's Socialist Party] of government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Roberto Freire; the PSTU [United Social Workers Party], the PV [Green Party], and the Prona [Party for the Redefinition of the National Order], which in 1989 ran with Eneas as its candidate.

The intense transfer of deputies during the past few days only helped the PSD [Democratic Social Party] which increased from six to 21 deputies. Former Governor Alvaro Dias, PP [Popular Party] president, accused the party of offering to pay legislators up to $50,000 for changing tickets. The PL, which had 15 deputies, lost one to the PSD and has been trying to get Deputy Oscar Travassos, who was granted leave of absence to work at the Mato Grosso government, to leave his post and resume his mandate to save the party. The following parties can run in the presidential elections: the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], the PFL [Liberal Front Party], the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party], the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], the PP, the PT [Workers Party], the PDT [Democratic Labor Party], the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the PSD, and the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] of former President Fernando Collor. The PRN [National Reconstruction Party] only has 10 deputies but fulfills another requirement: It obtained more than 5 percent of the votes for the Chamber of Deputies in the 1990 elections.

There was another reason why so many deputies changed party: The new electoral law significantly reduces the free radio and television time for electoral purposes during the campaign. The PMDB, for example, which holds the largest bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, will have less than five minutes per day to disseminate the image of is presidential candidate. The free time granted for this purpose totals two hours per day, half in the morning and half at night. One third of that time will be divided equally among the candidates and the rest will by divided according to the size of the party blocs. Moreover, the time will be divided among candidates for president, governor, senate, federal deputy, and state deputy.

By law, a federal deputy is worth 2,384 seconds in the presidential dispute. Last week, Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf (PPR) dismissed two secretaries so that they would resume their seats in the Chamber of Deputies and thus secure a few more seconds. The law also establishes that radio and television propaganda on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays will be used to disseminate the proposals of the federal and state deputies. In addition to restricting the parties' participation in the free radio and television time, the law establishes the following rules for the 1994 elections:

Ballot slip—There will be two ballot slips: A white slip for the candidates for federal and state deputies and a yellow slip for president, governor, and senator.

Donations—Enterprises may spend up to two percent of their 1993 gross income or up to 300,000 Ufir [reference fiscal unit], or whichever is larger, during the campaign. Private individuals may donate up to 10 percent of their 1993 gross income or up to 70,000 Ufir. The candidates and parties must keep a record of donations at the disposal of the Electoral Court for five years, but the donations do not need to be disclosed. Help from foreign institutions, labor unions, or enterprises that receive resources from abroad is banned.

Propaganda—Outdoor [preceding word in English] spaces will be divided among the parties via a drawing system. Propaganda on banners, leaflets, and other printed material is unrestricted.

Polls—As of 2 April, any poll must be registered with the Electoral Court five days before it is disseminated.

Status of 13 Deputies Suspended

PY0710204293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Oct 93 p A4

[Article by Rita Tavares and Vanda Celia]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies decided to suspend the congressional status of 13 deputies, who allegedly joined the PSD [Democratic Social Party] last week in exchange for money. The decision was unanimously made by the Chamber of Deputies executive board members. The Chamber of Deputies will not send a list of the parties that may present presidential candidates in next year's elections to the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) until the congressional magistrate's office [corregedoria] investigates if a crime was or was not committed in the parties swap. The deadline for sending the list is 31 December. This allows enough time to investigate this episode.

Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio de Oliveira (Liberal Front Party-Pernambuco State), who believes there is enough evidence and clues on irregularities in this case, said: "The Chamber of Deputies' image was being affected." The Chamber of Deputies executive board's decision was made after a whole day of protest speeches on the floor against the purchase of terms of office. As of today, Deputy Fernando Lyra (Brazilian Socialist Party- Pernambuco), the congressional magistrate, will begin to call the 13 new deputies, out of the 19 PSD bloc deputies, who signed a [party membership] card last week. The decision was applauded by the plenary as soon as Inocencio de Oliveira announced it. [passage omitted]

TSE President Criticizes Law

PY1010010393 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Oct 93 Section 1 p 4

[Article by Gutemberg de Souza]

[Text] Sepulveda Pertence, president of the TSE (Superior Electoral Court), has criticized the rules set by Congress to finance the 1994 electoral campaign. In his opinion, despite some "substantial innovations," the new electoral law makes the mistake of allowing the candidates to keep the origin of the money secret.

During an interview granted yesterday morning, Pertence assessed the new electoral law and came to the conclusion that one of its most polemic points is the restriction imposed on the free radio and television time for electoral purposes. During the campaign, the radio and television stations will not be able to disseminate, during their regular programs, opinions in favor of or contrary to the candidates.

Pertence said that "this will obviously be a headache" when asked whether the law contradicted the freedom of press principle. He believes this point of the law is going to prompt a large number of legal actions.

The TSE president also regarded as polemic the requirement that the free radio and television time broadcast studio clips without any outdoor scenes or great productions. He said that the TSE will have to issue a resolution establishing what can and cannot be broadcast.

From the financial viewpoint, Pertence said: "The law is wishy-washy. It is more realistic but less clear than recommended by international experience." The law allows enterprises to donate up to 2 percent of their annual income for the electoral campaign.

The list of donors must be approved by the Court but the candidate does not need to make it public. According to Pertence, the ideal thing would be to allow the electorate know where the money comes from. "The law is not ideal but has made some progress. It is a feasible law," according to Pertence who said that it is the result of "contradictory interests." Among the positive aspects of the law, he mentioned the requirement for a minimum representation so that the political parties may run for president, governor, and senator.

Government Divided on Oil, Telecommunications Issue

PY0810173693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Oct 93 p H4

[Article by Ribamar Oliveira]

[Text] Brasilia—The subject of the federal government's monopoly in the oil and telecommunications fields, which will be discussed when the Constitution is reviewed, is beginning to divide the government. Although Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's team supports an end to the monopoly in telecommunications and the privatization of Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.], Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [People's Socialist Party- Pernambuco], the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, yesterday said he is against this proposal. "Cardoso might be in favor of this, but the government is not in favor of ending the monopoly," said Freire, who added: "I, for example, am against it." The discussions over this issue reveal the difficulties that Itamar Franco's government will have in coming up with a single and all-encompassing proposal regarding the revision.

Yesterday, when confronted with alleged proposals attributed to government members, Freire got angry. He even asked: "What government are you talking about?" Senator Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul], one of the people closest to President Itamar Franco, refused to even disclose his stance on monopolies. Justice Minister Mauricio Correia asserted that the government "is going to fight to retain some points" in the revision of the Constitution. He noted, however, that the battle will only be over subjects that enjoy consensus within government. Freire goes further in assessing the government's difficulties. Franco's decision not to interfere in the revision process, according to him, is because he senses "contradictions regarding ideologies and principles" within his government. Although the government may support one or another viewpoint, it will only make this decision if there is consensus. Freire commented that "the government's intervention will only be episodic."

There are three different positions within the government regarding the monopoly issue. One trend merely wants it to end; the second wants to leave things as they stand; and the third wants to "make more flexible" the Constitution. This third trend believes that it is the federal government, and not Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] or Telebras, that holds the monopoly. In the case of oil, for example, the third trend's idea would be to maintain the monopoly, but open up possibilities for private capital to invest in the oil refining field. The telecommunications field is a little more complicated, because those who support the third trend argue that this is the leading sector in the world economy, and for strategic reasons must be controlled by the federal government.

Congressional Leaders: Fiscal Reform To Be Limited

PY0810200393

[Editorial Report] Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 6 October carries on page A4 an unattributed 720-word article from Brasilia stating that leaders of the largest parties in Congress believe the government will only be able to approve a very limited fiscal reform in the constitutional reform. The article adds that this became evident during a meeting at the home of Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio Oliveira, Liberal Front Party- Pernambuco State. The article quotes attending Deputy Genebaldo Correia, Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Bahia State, as saying: "All we can expect from the reform is the simplification of the current system to make tax collection more effective." It adds that Roberto Freire, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, could not hide his concern and says: "If the government does not unify its bases of support we will have no fiscal reform." The article adds that Freire admits that not even the government knows what sort of fiscal reform it wants.

The article also reports on different points of view shared by the congressmen regarding the number of taxes the country should have; mentions the proposal by Deputy Luis Roberto Ponte, Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, PMDB, Rio Grande do Sul State, to reduce the current 59 taxes to six at most; comments on which proposals each congressmen will support, and concludes with Freire's statement: "If the PMDB supports Ponte's proposal, I will go against it."

Economic Team Unbelieving Deficit Can Be Eliminated

PY1110220893 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] The economic team does not believe in the possibility of eliminating the 1994 government deficit. The goal is now to reduce the initially expected deficit of $25 billion to $10 billion. The Finance Ministry no longer expects the government to be able to pass a minimum fiscal reform bill through Congress this year, and Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso finds it too risky to adopt any shock measures against inflation without the adjustment, contrary to what is supported by President Itamar Franco's closest advisers. The economic team is studying the possibility of creating a committee to administer the circulation of two currencies: the real cruzeiro, and another one with support from dollar reserves. The economic team expects that this measure will contain inflation even though it does not balance the deficit. Yesterday, Finance Minister Cardoso left Brazil to negotiate the foreign debt with the Paris Club.

IBRD Loans Worth $800 Million Yearly Not Disbursed

PY1210012193 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Oct 93 Section 1 p 11

[Text] Brasilia—Brazil fails to receive $800 million yearly in loans already obtained from the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), also known as the World Bank, because of problems in the implementation of financed projects.

This figure was revealed by Mauro Marcondes Rodrigues, secretary of the Planning Secretariat International Affairs Department. This year the bank is disbursing $500 million instead of $1.3 billion.

Plebiscite May Approve Death Penalty

PY0810181693 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Oct 93 p 1

[By Gilberto Dimenstein]

[Text] Deputy Amaral Netto (Progressive Renewal Party-Rio de Janeiro State) has secured a written commitment from 347 deputies and senators who favor a plebiscite on the death penalty, to be voted on during the constitutional revision. A total of 293 votes, which represents a majority, would be enough. After the amendment's approval a date for the plebiscite would be set. And judging from the public spirit, it is quite probable that the death penalty will achieve victory.

Congress Investigates 'Irregular' Adoptions Abroad

PY0710131493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Itamaraty wants Brazilian embassies abroad to control the adoption of Brazilian children in foreign countries. A dossier has reported 49 cases of irregular adoption in Rio Grande do Norte. The majority of the children were taken to Israel and Italy.

The Federal Police have arrested lawyer (Paulo Queiroz) in Natal. He is one of the main people charged with acting as a middleman in the irregular adoption of Brazilian children by foreigners.

This is one of the cases of trafficking in Brazilian children that is being investigated by the CPI [Congressional Investigative Committee] dealing with the exploitation and prostitution of children and adolescents.

The last and most serious charge has been pressed by French Deputy (Leon Watzemberg), who charged that between 1988 and 1992 4,000 Brazilian children were taken to Italy, but today only 1,000 of them are alive.

[Begin Deputy Moroni Torgan recording] This is an extremely serious charge pressed by a French deputy. He has the documents, and we are trying to contact him to receive those documents and adopt the appropriate measures. [end recording]

In the final CPI report, Deputy Torgan will include a suggestion from Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, namely to create, by law, a registry at Brazilian consulates with information on all children who leave the country.

In order to help with the supervision of the adoptions, Minister Celso Amorim has already asked for cooperation from the Italian Government, and will contact other countries.

Chile

President Aylwin Returns From New Zealand, Australia

PY0810153593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0202 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Santiago, 7 Oct (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin returned to Santiago on 7 October from a seven-day tour of New Zealand and Australia. The objective of the tour was to promote commerce between Chile and these two countries.

The presidential airplane, a Boeing 707, flew into Santiago from Papeete, Tahiti, at 2130 local time (0130 GMT) and landed at Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez Airport.

Aylwin left Santiago on 1 October at the head of a delegation of 35 people, including three ministers of state, congressmen, businessmen, and labor union leaders.

A ceremony was held at the airport upon Aylwin's return. During this ceremony Vice President Enrique Krauss stepped down as acting president, returning power to President Aylwin, and resumed his usual duties as interior minister.

Combined Navy Operations Drill Includes 11 Nations

PY0810134293 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Navy officers from 11 nations are participating in the 12th American Navies Combined Operations Planning Exercise. Twenty-four officers from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela are participating. The drill, which is being conducted at the Naval Academy in Valparaiso, will conclude on 15 October.

Colombia

Protests Paralyze Parts of Bolivar City, Bogota

PA1110185893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Report by Juan Eduardo Jaramillo from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] [Announcer] Protests in Bolivar City, located south of the capital, paralyzed one-third of Santa Fe de Bogota today. Residents blocked streets in a citizens' protest that led to serious disturbances and clashes with the police in some areas of the city. Although various authorities are in contact with the residents, the protest has not been lifted and disturbances continue.

[Begin recording] [Jaramillo] The protest began before 0500 this morning. Over 1.5 million [figure as heard] Bolivar City residents decided to block southern Bogota with a widespread citizens' protest. Few people went to work and there were no classes. Road blocks prevented vehicles from entering the area. Anger, aggression, and violence are everywhere.

[First unidentified resident] We are fighting because rates are very high here, because we are poor, and because some of our young men have died.

[Second unidentified resident] Our problem is that the authorities do not listen to us.

[Third unidentified resident] This is a peaceful protest, but the police have attacked us with tear gas, shot at us, and unleashed tanks on us.

[Jaramillo] In the face of the existing tension, the mayor has strengthened the police force facing the riots. The protest organizers are demanding that Bogota Mayor Jaime Castro come here to solve the problems or they will continue the porotest indefinitely.

Situation 'Totally Normal'

PA1210021293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report on interview with Santa Fe de Bogota Mayor Jaime Castro by Miriam Ortiz; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] [Ortiz] Good evening. We are here in the Santa Fe de Bogota mayor's office. Mayor Jaime Castro today announced a revision of utility rates charged in the zone of Ciudad Bolivar and the installation of 32,000 telephone lines. Mr. Mayor, what is the situation in Ciudad Bolivar?

[Castro] The situation is totally normal. Leaders of the so-called civic strike and leaders of the administration are meeting in a school building, reviewing the programs and projects we have defined for that area.

[Ortiz] After the strike, what is the mayor's office commitment to that community?

[Castro] We plan to carry out those programs and projects within the terms that were initially established.

[Ortiz] Did the obscure forces to which you alluded take part today?

[Castro] I did not mention obscure forces. I said entities and people, who are playing up to armed subversion, were promoting the strike to the extent that they create or seek to create situations that disrupt public order.

[Ortiz] To sum it up, it means that the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the ELN [Army of National Liberation] promoted this strike?

[Castro] At least people and entities who play up to those organizations did.

Subversive Groups Promote Protest

PA1110192293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The figures on the national crisis are clear, but it seems that urban guerrilla groups are taking advantage of the situation to infiltrate low-income neighborhoods and promote unrest.

Bolivar City has become a breeding ground for subversion through the People's Militias of the Army of National Liberation, the Workers' Militias of the Popular Liberation Army, and the Bolivarian Militias of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. In fact, the Army has said that the Bolivarian Militias are promoting the protest in the area southwest of Bogota.

[Begin Metropolitan Police Commander Colonel Uriel Salazar recording] We received information from some of our informers a few days ago. They indicated that deep down the protest was led by individuals who may have ties to subversive groups. [end recording]

The police said the community had voluntarily called off this day of protest organized by community leaders. The FARC's Bolivarian Militias exerted pressured to hold it today, they stated. The military forces's intelligence corps disclosed that the militias are working in small groups of five or six persons and are in charge of infiltrating the citizens to lead the disturbances expected during these protests.

Rebel Group Calls On Government To Renew Talks

PA0910200693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1838 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 9 Oct (EFE)—Today the Socialist Renewal Movement [CRS], a dissident group of the National Liberation Army [ELN], urged the Colombian Government to renew, as soon as possible, the dialogue that was suspended last month following the death, under confusing circumstances, of one of the rebel negotiators.

Rebel leader Jacinto Ruiz said it is necessary to renew the dialogue next week. He reiterated that his group has the commitment to sign a peace agreement and asked Government Minister Fabio Villegas to personally participate to give the process more substance. Ruiz sent Colombian President Cesar Gaviria a letter in which he reiterates the need for the executive branch to appoint a peace counselor, accept international oversight, and make known the results of the investigations on the death of rebel leader Enrique Buendia and another guerrilla, who was with him. These two guerrillas died in the Uraba region, northwestern Colombia, during a clash with the Army, but according to CRS the two were murdered after having been captured.

In a statement to Emisoras Caracol Network, Ruiz admitted the possibility of holding talks before the conditions set by his organization are met, but cautioned that the success of the process depends on these conditions being met.

A small CRS guerrilla group is in the small town of Flor del Monte, in the country's north, the site where a mediating Colombian Senate commission will be going Sunday. The commission is mediating so that the negotiating process is not delayed too long.

Buendia's death occurred one day before the government and the CRS were to officially announce the opening of a dialogue to demobilize approximately 300 men who discount orders from the ELN's top commander, Spanish former priest Manuel Perez.

Minister Blames Rebels for 7 Oct Bomb Attacks

PA0810215693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Authorities have stated that guerrillas are responsible for the attacks that took place over the past few hours in Santa Fe de Bogota. There is a great deal of alarm in the capital. This is the first time a National Police bus has been ambushed in the heart of downtown Santa Fe de Bogota.

According to authorities, the urban militias of the 22d Front of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] were responsible for detonating the remote-controlled bomb against the National Police bus and placing two more explosive devices in the headquarters of a political party and a branch of the National Civil Registry Office.

[Begin Government and Interior Minister Fabio Villegas recording] The way in which the events unfolded, as well as the background and elements used to carry out the attack, permit us to state that subversive organizations are responsible for it. [end recording]

This is the first time that a National Police bus has been ambushed in Santa Fe de Bogota. More than 30 uniformed men were on their way to rest when just after 2130 an explosive charge of at least 40 kg surprised them. The city has not experienced such hours of panic since last April.

[Begin unidentified policeman recording] This attack is unjustified. We are not responsible of anything. We are just fulfilling our duty. We are not harming anyone. [end recording]

Minutes after this attack, authorities responded to two other terrorist attacks in the center and south of Santa Fe de Bogota.

[Begin unidentified watchman recording] We saw flames through the window. We knew we were in danger and took cover and then the bomb exploded. [end recording]

This criminal attack killed two policemen and injured 30 others. Approximately 15 civilians sustained minor injuries. Losses have been estimated at 200 million pesos. So far no arrests have been made. Authorities are on the trail of three individuals who were traveling in a red Volkswagen at the time of the attack.

Guerrilla Shift to Drug Trafficking Outlined

PA0910183193 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Oct 93 pp 1a, 23a

[Report by Clara Elvira Ospina]

[Text] The mirage of an economic boom and a quick fortune based on drug traffic is more persuasive at present than revolutionary speeches and causes the guerrilla fronts spread. Even in the ELN [National Liberation Army], whose commanders have explicitly instructed their men to pull away from the business, six columns are still linked to activities related to drug trafficking and have started to detach themselves from the organization.

This is the conclusion of a classified investigation conducted by the Military Forces command. According to a report to which EL TIEMPO gained access, there are 27 FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and 6 ELN fronts active in this business. Nearly 2,500 FARC men (nearly 50 percent) and 500 ELN members (38 percent) are devoted part-time to drug trafficking. That the guerrillas have become a drug cartel is nothing new. The degree of detachment of the guerrilla fronts involved in drug trafficking is new indeed.

Three weeks ago, General Ramon Emilio Gil, Military Forces commander, said greed has started to dismember several fronts and send their members into the jungle for good. Gil and other high-ranking officers say there are increasing signs of this situation, particularly regarding the fronts in the country's remote southern jungles and the eastern end, kilometers from already inaccessible hamlets.

Remarkable coincidences can be observed when maps on the location of the 18 coca plantation areas are superimposed on those of the guerrilla fronts' areas of influence. Something similar happens with the eight poppy and the four marijuana fields.

The guerrillas' activities in those areas are not limited to planting coca or marijuana or protecting the fields. They also collect sales taxes and hire drug traffickers. This was the experience in Caqueta in the late 1970's and early 1980's, where the guerrillas finally both dislodged the traffickers that refused to increase their quotas and expanded their operations to the plains and Middle Magdalena and organized their own private armies.

FARC, a pioneer in the drug business, is now the strongest in the activity, in particular Fronts 1, 14, and 15. According to the military, the guerrillas currently constitute a production and marketing organization in its own right. Official studies indicate that FARC leads in the drug trafficking business, just as it does in other fields. To begin with, the FARC 1st Front, embedded in Guaviare and Vaupes, controls the entire production cycle, this is to say, coca planting, processing, and the exporting of cocaine. Not only that, drug trafficking has generated such power for this front that the leaders frequently go so far as to object to the secretariat general's instructions. It cannot be said, however, that this front acts on its own. Gen Gil says that "it simply is more independent than other, less developed fronts."

The FARC 1st Front is made up of some 120 men led by a guerrilla known as "The Parrot." Authorities say he is really either Hector Clavijo or Alberto Sanchez. The military report describes this front's activities as "broad control and handling of planting and processing coca, as well as selling cocaine." FARC's eastern bloc, of which the group led by "The Parrot" is part, has attained the biggest military power through the economic power derived from drug trafficking.

The aforementioned bloc includes the following fronts: 10th "Guadalupe Salcedo" that operates in Arauca; 45th "Atanasio Girardot" located in the Arauca-Boyaca border; 16th "Jose Antonio Paez" that operates in Vichada; and the 42d and 31st "Heroes of Yari," who share Meta Department. This bloc is made up of 565 members, who spend a significant part of their effort on the cocaine business.

The southern bloc, which includes the Departments of Amazona, Putumayo, Caqueta, Narino, and Huila, is the second in importance as related to drug trafficking activities. This bloc is made up of the 2d, 3d, and 13th Fronts operating in southern Huila; the 14th and 15th Fronts that operate in Caqueta; the 32d Front operating in Putumayo; and the 55th Front in Amazonas region.

The authorities, particularly the Armed Forces, emphasized the importance of the 14th and 15th Fronts in the drug business. The Armed Forces have even indicated that as a single group both fronts may add up to approximately 210 members. The first group is under the leadership of Jose Benito Cabrera Cuevas, alias "Fabian Ramirez El Chato" while the second is headed by Ezequiel Huegia Cruz, alias "Rolando Romero."

According to military sources, these two fronts are the only ones in the entire country that have their own landing strips to handle drug shipments and their own cocaine processing laboratories.

Poppy and...

Nevertheless, FARC is not intent only on increasing their illegal earnings originating from cocaine. They have also taken advantage of the poppy boom and the resurgence of the huge marijuana plantations in the northeastern region of the country.

Four FARC fronts operate as private security organizations for the protection of the marijuana plantations located in La Guajira, Cesar, Bolivar Departments as well as in the bordering regions between Cauca and Valle Departments.

The 24th Front, operating in southern Bolivar Department, has the biggest responsibility over the plantations. It is made up of 100 guerrillas and it exercises wide control over the plantations and laboratories in exchange for a percentage of the profits.

The FARC poppy business is managed by the fronts that form the central and coffee area blocs. Their strong points are growing the poppy plants and recollecting and selling the latex.

The 21st Front, which is part of the central bloc, operates in the boundary between the coffee area and Tolima Department. The 6th, 8th, and 29th Fronts have their area of influence in Valle and Cauca Departments, where they control the biggest poppy crops in the entire country.

There are, however, two fronts located in Boyaca and Antioquia Departments that receive dividends from poppy crops in addition to the profits they receive from the control of cocaine trafficking activities. The 11th Front, located in western Boyaca Department, has 80 men who divide their work between guarding poppy and coca crops. The 9th Front cooperates with the ELN Jose Antonio Galan Front and cares for the poppy and coca crops in the southeastern region of the Antioquia Department. The two groups amount to approximately 200 men and are ascribed to the northeastern and Uraba blocs, respectively.

Eradicate?

The other face of the narcotization phenomenon is the ELN. In principle, documents that have been seized from several ELN fronts indicate there is a peremptory instruction from the ELN command for its columns to stay away from drug trafficking activities. Military intelligence obtained the 1992-1995 work program, derived from the National Tactical Plan, which was approved by the ELN Command in 1986, during one of the Army's recent operations in southern Bolivar Department. The program reflects that there is a commitment to sever all ties with drug trafficking activities.

Apparently, beyond the goal of keeping the pressure on the oil and coal mining activities, there are also conflicts between the insurgents and the Atlantic coast drug traffickers.

All in all, there are actually six ELN columns carrying out crop protection duty and the Jose Solano Sepulveda Front, which was the target of the document seizure, is still involved in drug trafficking activities. According to the military, three of the six ELN narco guerrilla columns have crop protection contracts.

The Domingo Lain Saenz Front, the strongest ELN front, is a member of the group. It operates in Arauca under the command of Domingo Serna Rodriguez. The Manuel Vasquez Casano Front, with its 60 men located south of Huila, controls the poppy fields and latex sales.

The Camilo Torres Restrepo column, which is part of the northern war front and receives its instructions from Aurentino de Jesus Rueda, alias "Jair," has 100 men assigned to coca and marijuana crop protection in central Cesar.

An overall assessment of the phenomenon would indicate that the military believes there is increasing erosion within the FARC and the ELN, due to drugs and an individual desire for the wealth produced by drug trafficking.

In the case of the ELN, this explains the Central Command's concern over getting its fronts out of the business and their resistance to follow orders. As far as the FARC is concerned, this would explain why almost 50 percent of its men have crossed over to the business.

Police Conclude Relatives Now Guarding Escobar

PA0910193793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the "National" Newscast]

[Text] The police have concluded that Pablo Escobar's new bodyguards are, most likely, members of his own family. That is the conclusion the police have arrived at after the death of "El Angelito" [Alfonso Puertas Munoz], Escobar's last trusted bodyguard.

According to acting National Police director [Octavio Vargas], operations against Medellin Cartel chief Pablo Escobar Gaviria extends throughout the Departments of Antioquia, Risaralda, Cordoba, and Choco. He indicated that Escobar's relatives are currently receiving protection from the Medellin Metropolitan Police.

[Begin Vargas recording] Recently, we have been able to coordinate with the Prosecutor General's Office. It was agreed that we would simply provide backup support to the Prosecutor General's Office agents already in place. [end recording]

According to the police, with the death of "El Angelito", Pablo Escobar has been left alone and some of his relatives are now his personal bodyguards.

[Begin Vargas recording] I believe that if Escobar is accompanied, he must have been forced to improvise his security service. It is possible that his security apparatus may now be centered on some relatives. [end recording]

Government Rejects Idea of Secret Peace Mediators

PA0810185193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] Government Minister Fabio Villegas has refused to accept Congress' proposal whereby secret mediators would be used when talks are resumed with the Socialist Renewal Movement. In Congress, peace stood alone, surrounded by absentees. Approximately 20 to 30 representatives attended the debate with the ministers of government and defense. Like a scratched record the congressmen repeated the call for dialogue, demanded the end of the scorched earth policy, and cited the example of peace between Jews and Palestinians.

Through adviser Ricardo Santamaria, the government repeated the risks faced by peace negotiators and its interest in the results of the investigation of why Enrique Buendia and Ricardo Gonzalez were killed if they were such good spokesmen. The members of Socialist Renewal did not get to show a video in which they confirm their resolve to achieve peace and establish conditions for a resumption of the talks.

[Begin Socialist Renewal member Gabriel Borja recording] We are willing to send one of our spokesmen who, free of any legal impediments, would address the honorable Chamber of Representatives. [end recording]

Since the session failed because of the high absentee rate, the discussion will resume on Tuesday and the advantage of appointing faceless negotiators, which the government does not view favorably, might also be discussed.

[Begin Villegas recording] We believe the people should know who is representing us in talks such as these. [end recording]

Congressmen and guerrillas have also asked the government for something else: to separate the duties of the National Security Council from those of the Advisory Board for Peace Issues.

Search Bloc Chief Announces Start of 'Second Phase'

PA0810154293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] General Octavio Vargas Silva, acting National Police director, today explained the second phase of the Search Bloc's operation and discussed the attempted kidnapping of former Medellin 4th Brigade Commander Gen. Gustavo Pardo Ariza. Gen. Vargas Silva, who has headed the Search Bloc since its inception, said today that it has initiated a second phase with new tactics and strategies. He said the death of Angelito [Alfonso Puerta Munoz] is one of the Bloc's first achievements.

[Begin Vargas Silva recording] There has been a change in the operation's strategy. We are trying not to harm people who are not involved in the problem and we are performing very professionally. [end recording]

Gen. Vargas Silva, who is also police deputy director, also referred to the attempted kidnapping today in Santa Fe de Bogota of Gen. Gustavo Pardo Ariza, former commander of Medellin's 4th Brigade.

[Begin Vargas Silva recording] A group of 11 armed individuals arrived at Gen. Pardo Ariza's residence, but he was not in Santa Fe de Bogota at the time, nor was his family at the residence. We do not have any information concerning the people who attempted to kidnap him. [end recording]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kyrgyzstan

PA0810140693 Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, Oct 6 (AFP)—Colombia and Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic in Central Asia, established diplomatic relations this Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry in Santa Fe de Bogota announced. The establishment of diplomatic relations was signed in Santa Fe de Bogota by Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and Djoumakadyr A. Atabecov, the Kyrgyz permanent UN ambassador. For the time being, relations will be established through concurrent ambassadors who are to be appointed shortly, the Colombian Foreign Ministry added.

Ecuador

World Bank, IDB Grant $30 Million Development Credit

PA1110162693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Santiago Bustamante, Social Investments Fund [FISE] coordinator, reported that the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] have approved a line of credit for social development projects. By the end of 1993, FISE will have a budget of approximately $30 million to finance 50 projects in several areas of the country.

[Begin Bustamante recording] This will help replenish the IDB and the World Bank credit that will finance the fund up to March or April 1994. If possible, we will try to secure about $60 million for 1994. [end recording]

Santiago Bustamante had this to say regarding FISE projections:

[Begin Bustamante recording] We have approved approximately $1 million worth of projects a month during the past few months. There are approximately 70 projects. About 100 projects have been approved, and 350 projects have been received. Our goal is to cover some 500 projects during 1994 and 1,000 projects by 1995. [end recording]

Petroecuador To Solicit Oil Exploration Bids

PA1110150693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The government announced today that in three months it will solicit international bids to search for oil in the jungle and on the coast. The move is expected to attract at least $200 million in foreign investments.

An Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise, Petroecuador, report said that on 24 January it will be open to bids to explore 12 areas that have oil potential to locate new reserves amounting to 1 billion barrels. The 4 million hectare prospecting area will be distributed among nine Amazon jungle areas, two areas off the Pacific coast, and one inland area on the southwestern coastline. One of the jungle areas will be reserved exclusively for foreign state-run enterprises, the same source indicated.

A recent official report states that current proved reserves in production amount to approximately 1.9 billion barrels, and those reserves that have not begun to be extracted exceed 1.144 billion barrels.

Paraguay

President Wasmosy Replaces National Police Chief

PY1010001593 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Today President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's ministers were called to a news conference at the presidential residence. Eduardo Venialgo, social communications secretary of the Presidency, reported on the decree signed by the president to replace the current national police chief.

[Begin recording] [Venialgo] Through decree No. 617, the president designates a new commander of the national police. Interior Minister Carlos Podesta is here, and he will give you further details on this measure which was adopted this morning.

[Podesta] The president decided to replace the current national police commander.

[Unidentified reporter] Who will replace him, minister?

[Podesta] He will be replaced by Police Chief Superintendant Mario Agustin Sapriza Nunes. He will be the new commander of the national police and tonight at 1700 we will install him.

[Reporter] What is the reason for this change?

[Podesta] The president did not tell me the reason for this change.

[Reporter] Is it a response to congressional pressure to replace current police commander German Franco Vargas?

[Podesta] I do not know whether the president feels pressured by the congressmen, but you must understand that he must have a very good reason for making this change. [end recording]

Senate Approves Bill on Military Party Affiliation

PY0810164893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 8

[Excerpt] The Senate has moved toward institutionalizing the Armed Forces and the National Police by approving a draft bill last night, that suspends, temporarily, the right of active service military and police personnel to belong to political parties. These citizens recover this right when they retire. The topic was amply debated by the senators, among whom there were opposing opinions. The bill was approved by a majority. The controversial bill now goes to the Chamber of Deputies for study.

The draft bill that suspends party affiliation of active service military and police personnel last night prompted one of the most spectacular debates since the installation of the new Congress. The senators debated the issue for many hours. Yesterday's Senate session started at 1635 and ended around 2230.

The controversial bill, which was initially presented by Senator Victor Sanchez Villagra, of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, was approved in general terms by 24 of the 40 senators. It was supported by most of the senators of the Liberal Party bloc, the National Encounter Alliance, and the Argana-faction of the Colorado Party. Article 2 of the bill was especially supported by all opposition senators, but not by the Colorado Party senators. They disagreed with the wording of the article.

During Stroessner's long dictatorship, young men who wanted to enter the Military School or the Police School had to be affiliated to the Colorado Party. As a result, almost the entire cadre of active members of the Armed Forces and the Police are members of the ruling party. [passage omitted]

Defense Vice Minister on Military Nonpartisanship

PY0810220993 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] Commenting on the demonstrators that attacked congressmen yesterday, Defense Vice Minister General Marcial Samaniego stated: "The military has nothing to do with this affair. This is an issue that should be totally ruled out. What have we, the military, got to do with those folks?"

Gen. Samaniego noted that, evidently, the Armed Forces' name is being used, and with regard to this issue, the military has remained as silent as a grave. "It is wrong to use the Armed Forces' name in these issues. We have another mission; we are not in the mood for these things. Now these folks are politicians and in all likelihood they do that in order to seek some publicity," he said.

The defense vice minister said he hoped this issue would end soon and be completely forgotten because there is no reason whatsoever for involving the military in such a situation. "We are confronted with more serious problems, like national security. It is not right to try to implicate us in this issue," he stated.

Gen. Samaniego further stated that, at any rate, the military is the one that should air its grievances if it believes its rights have been trampled on. "Why should others arrogate to themselves the right of complaining on our behalf?" he stated. Gen. Samaniego also dismissed a possible malaise in the Armed Forces due to the fact that the Senate passed a bill stipulating that the military and police must be nonpartisan. "After all, we cannot engage in politics or proselytize, so it is totally irrelevant whether we are affiliated with a party or not," he noted.

The defense vice minister pointed out that he would agree with the military being nonpartisan if it only affected their participation in partisan activities, such as voting in their party's primaries. But he defended the right the military has to vote in general elections. "We must vote in these elections, we are not second-class citizens; whereas I totally agree that we should abstain from voting in Colorado Party primaries because it is not right that we should vote while we are on active duty," he said.

General Oviedo Denies Involvement in Demonstration

PY0810164293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 10

[Text] "I am surprised that certain politicians are trying to involve me in such things," General Lino Cesar Oviedo stated, when asked about the demonstration staged at Congress on 7 October. "I have always sought to demonstrate that I have taken the side of democracy to the point of risking my life for it, and I will continue to do so for the sake of the Paraguayan people, who deserve to live in freedom,"

Gen. Oviedo said, adding that he is doing a lot to prevent actions that could disrupt the state of law that the people want to enjoy. "I absolutely and categorically refute the charges that I am encouraging actions like the one that happened this morning (7 October), because I have no interest whatsoever in upsetting this democratic process. Furthermore, a strategist is unlikely to be involved in something so crude," Gen. Oviedo stated.

Position of PLRA Bloc Leaders in Chamber Viewed

PY0810154093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p 4

[Excerpt] It would seem that Hermes Rafael Saguier will not remain as leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party bloc. It was agreed on 6 October to elect a new board within a week. Deputy Saguier was able to postpone his dismissal, however, through an agreement to negotiate the establishment of a new board among all internal PLRA sectors. After the meeting, where the agreement was reached, it was reported that the bloc is without a leader until the replacements are elected on 15 December.

Yesterday, the deputies signed a three point document in which they agree to annul the note requesting Saguier's dismissal and his answer. In this document, Saguier charged his fellow deputies with following the guidelines of the governability pact proposed by Domingo Laino.

The deputies also promised to begin negotiating among all PLRA sectors the election, within a week, of the new bloc leaders. The third point of the document states that Deputy Martin Federico Sannemann' decision to resign as vice leader of the bloc is accepted.

The deputies agreed not to hurt anyone's feelings. For this reason, all members of the bloc took care not to use the word "dismissal," although Saguier believes it very unlikely that he will be the bloc leader after next week's meeting.

Saguier and the Laino-supporters' representatives emphatically pointed out that this internal problem will not influence the agreement they reached with the National Encounter Alliance and the Argana faction of the National Republican Association-Colorado Party. Saguier pointed out that this opposition alliance will prevail for "at least three years." [passage omitted]

President on Use of Military for Law Enforcement

PY1010003493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Oct 93 p 8

[Text] Early in the morning of 8 October, President Juan Carlos Wasmosy met with high-ranking military commanders, the ministers of defense and interior, and the director of customs at the presidential residence. During this meeting he was briefed on the results of the joint military-police law enforcement operation. The president said that the initial results of the operation were "very positive" and promised that the struggle against crime will continue.

After the meeting, President Wasmosy told journalists that the joint military-police operations were evaluated at the meeting and confirmed that the struggle will continue. He said that he was pleased to report that criminal activities have fallen by 80 percent.

When the president was told that certain groups have criticized military involvement in law enforcement tasks, the chief executive said: Tell me...what else can I do? I have no allotments, nothing at all. Do you believe that congressmen will give me half of their salaries to fight car thieves, lumber smugglers, and other criminals?

Later on he reaffirmed that the struggle against crime will not cease and explained that the idea is to provide the police with more means to increase their effectiveness. "We will organize them and establish proper allotments for them in the budget so that they can focus on the performance of their specific duties," the president said.

He emphasized that so far the police have been facing both funds and staff shortages. "We are replacing rural police chiefs. We are restoring the institutional status of police service and until this is accomplished I am resorting to these means," he added.

President Wasmosy presided over the meeting at the presidential residence. Navy Commander, Rear Admiral Flavio Abadie Gaona; Army Logistics Commander, Division General Rejis Anibal Romero; Air Force Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Cesar Cramer; National Anti-drugs Secretary, Division General Mario Rodolfo Escobar Anzoategui, and Customs Director, General Miguel Angel Britos also attended the meeting.

Interior Minister on Joint Operation Results

PY0910174693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 9 Oct 93 p 10

[Text] The results of the joint military-police operation launched on 30 September have been poor at best judging by official information on initial results that Interior Minister Carlos Podesta released yesterday.

According to Podesta, the opperation yielded the following results: 1,012 people, who had no identity documents, were detained and the Police Identification Department supplied them with identity documents; 209 handguns and five rifles were seized from people who did not have licenses to carry them; 29 stolen cars were seized and returned to their owners.

The operation also led to the arrest of five fujitives from justice although the minister did not supply their names. It was also reported that 423 stolen cattle were recovered, 49 trucks carrying lumber were stopped before crossing the border to Brazil and nine trucks full of smuggled goods were seized.

Acknowledging to some extent the poor results of the operation, Podesta told the journalists: "We are not reporting spectacular results but it should be noted that while the operation has been underway car and cattle theft as well as cases of assault and battery have declined significantly."

Whistle-Blowing Colonel Dismissed from Post

PY1110230593 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p 4, 5

[Excerpts] Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas, deputy director of the Victory Barracks [veterans home], has been suddenly dismissed from his post. The replacement was ordered by the Armed Forces commander in chief and was confirmed by Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia.

The minister said Gonzalez Rojas's replacement was for service reasons. Military sources said, however, that the real reason for his dismissal was a petition from veterans requesting the return of Retired Colonel Anastasio Aguayo Karajallo, who was Gonzalez Rojas' predecessor.

According to the sources, on 5 October Minister Estigarribia summoned Col. Gonzalez Rojas to his office to tell him he was going to be replaced and to inform him that he would be placed at the disposal of the Armed Forces commander in chief, adding that the decision was made by the president himself.

Military sources said Col. Gonzalez Rojas's work at Victory Barracks annoyed various veterans, who allegedly then protested over the current situation at the barracks. The sources added that one of Gonzalez Rojas' first measures was to eliminate all brothels and gambling houses from the area, to prevent them from corrupting the Chaco war veterans. [passage omitted]

Col. Gonzalez Rojas did not want to comment on this information, saying that he wanted to read the order replacing him before talking about the situation. "I cannot talk until I read the commander in chief's order." Col. Gonzalez Rojas said yesterday, still at his offices at Victory Barracks. [passage omitted]

Last year Col. Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas denounced the trafficking of stolen cars to Bolivia through the Chaco region, for which he was arrested for approximately 40 days. He was first detained at the Presidential Guard, then at the military justice building, and finally on Pena Hermosa Island, from where he was released following a long legal battle.

Col. Gonzalez' report profoundly shook up the structure of the military leadership, and then Army Commander Division General Ramon Humberto Garcete was sent into retirement by General Andres Rodriguez as a result of it.

Uruguay

Finance Minister Confirms Economic Team Changes

PY0810132593 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Yesterday, Economy and Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas confirmed the changes in the economic team, and announced that President Luis Alberto Lacalle has instructed him to continue with the same economic policy that has been implemented so far.

Lacalle instructed the economic team to continue with the same serious economic policy implemented so far for the medium- and long-term. This information was disclosed by De Posadas at the end of a meeting with the chief of state at the Libertad Building.

The following changes were confirmed by De Posadas: Enrique Braga, current president of the Bank of Uruguay, has been appointed president of the Central Bank. Carlos Cat, current Planning and Budget Office [OPP] director, has been appointed president of the Bank of Uruguay. Javier de Haedo has been appointed OPP director.

De Posadas ratified the current Economy Under Secretary Gustavo Licandro in his post, and said that the name of the new Central Bank vice president will be disclosed shortly. Licandro was confirmed as economy under secretary in view of the fact that economist (Isaac Aldi) turned down de Posadas's offer. [words indistinct]

Foreign Minister Views Relations With PRC

PY0810213193 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 29 Sep 93 pp 2,3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonilla by unidentified reporter in Washington on 28 September]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Since your first day in New York, you have held a number of bilateral meetings. The first was with PRC officials. Please tell us about the issues discussed that may be of interest to our country?

[Abreu] We have a strong relationship with the People's Republic of China. This was my third meeting with the PRC foreign minister this year. We first met when he visited Uruguay, we met again when the vice president and I visited the PRC, and this is the third time.

The bilateral aspects of our relationship with the PRC are basically commercial because Uruguayan interests, beyond our diplomatic relations which are stable, durable, and are being gradually strengthened, include commercial expansion and the possibility of selling Uruguayan products on the PRC market.

We have a significant surplus. We spoke to the PRC foreign minister about the need to facilitate commercial possibilities, including the exchange rate, tariff levels, and some domestic measures in the PRC economy that might increase the prices of our products. We also discussed bilateral issues of a political nature. Among the circumstantial issues, it is worth emphasizing the warm appreciation expressed to our country by the PRC over our support for holding the next Olympic Games in Beijing. We were unsuccessful because Beijing was not selected, but within the framework of our relations with the PRC, we confirmed our diplomatic relations and their continuity, especially concerning the enhancement of an active presence by the two governments and states in all cultural, commercial, and political aspects.

[Reporter] As you pointed out, this renewed updating of the agenda between the PRC and Uruguay included some issues that were emphasized, like commercial issues, for example. You discussed the revival of the PRC wool market for our exports. Are there other products within the framework of improving trade opportunities?

[Abreu] The basic products that we export to the PRC market are wool and frozen fish. Exports of alternative products are very small. The diversification of our exports to the PRC is not significant. There is a significant diversification of PRC exports to Uruguay where the range of PRC products is significant. We have a significant surplus. Uruguayan imports from the PRC are very reduced but the range varies from toys to handicrafts and PRC-manufactured products. It is important, without considering the surplus, that we are allowed to develop and increase this trade with a market of 1.2 billion inhabitants by offering, in exchange, a way for the PRC to enter the Latin American market, bearing in mind the opening and deregulation policy currently implemented by the PRC in its domestic economy.

[Reporter] Was any concrete commitment reached during your talks with the PRC delegation headed by Qian Qichen?

[Abreu] We are preparing a fourth meeting in November when President Lacalle will visit the PRC. It will be an official visit and I will join him. During this visit, we will attempt to include additional commitments of a commercial, cultural, and cooperation nature. We will thus enhance our relations through the signing of additional documents and commitments that will increase fluency in our economic ties because political ties have been strengthened without difficulty. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You attended the reception hosted by President Clinton. Did you have the chance to talk to him?

[Abreu] I talked to him during a dinner he hosted on 27 September. After a formal introduction, we talked about aspects linked to Latin American integration and the efforts currently made in the United States, Canada, and Mexico within NAFTA. President Clinton expressed gratitude over our country's support for all issues involving the approval of this agreement. We confirmed to him our president's message that Uruguay will become gradually integrated with a view to joining the world economy. Uruguay views the subregional systems or subsystems as complementary to our efforts to open up and become integrated into the world. We believe it was necessary to convey and endorse this message to President Clinton who warmly remembered Uruguay, our president, and the efforts we are making to modernize our economic integration.

[reporter] What did Clinton say, if you can remember?

[Abreu] Yes, of course. He said he favorably views our efforts and our possible contribution to the integration systems. He then requested our participation and support in everything concerning the enhancement of subregional systems. We noticed his open attitude and understanding for our country during a meeting marked by protocol. Nevertheless, he found the time to discuss these issues, which we appreciate. [passage omitted]

Navy Detects Allegedly British Triton Submarine

PY0810204193 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 28 Sep 93 pp 6, 7

[Article by SUCESOS CONFIDENCIAL News Agency reporter Zelmar Lissardy]

[Excerpt] Montevideo—Military and government sources reported that two Uruguayan Navy frigates detected the presence of a submerged submarine in Uruguay's southern maritime front. The submarine ignored requests for identification, sent some signals, and then disappeared. The Navy informed President

Luis Alberto Lacalle's administration about this event, but it maintained the lowest possible profile concerning this affair.

The official report by the Uruguayan Navy describes "the target" as "possibly, a submarine," as no answer was received to fully identify it. Notwithstanding this, anonymous military sources stated that after studying all the registers on the contacts established with "the target," it is possible to state, with nearly absolute certainty, that it was a British Royal Navy Triton-class submarine. Other Navy sources in Argentina have categorically stated that that country does not have any Triton-class submarines and the only two submarines operational at the Mar del Plata Base are in the TR-1700 class, which are "more modern."

Despite the fact that the Uruguayan Government attached little importance to the event, SUCESOS CONFIDENCIALES collected information from various military sources in Montevideo that reported there is a deeply felt malaise in the Uruguayan Navy on account of the way "the target" acted. Some Uruguayan sources labelled the event "almost a provocation."

Argentine Navy sources were of the same view. They said the submarine may belong to a third country interested in damaging "the excellent relations existing at present between the navies" of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

SUCESOS CONFIDENCIAL reconstructed the details of what happened on 9 September based on the information obtained from the official report submitted to the government and from other reports the Navy is assessing with utmost secrecy. [passage omitted]

Outside National Waters

PY0810174293 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 29 Sep 93 p 5

[Text] The Navy General Command, through its Public Relations Department, informs the public that on the night of 9 September, while two Navy frigates were patrolling our territorial waters, they detected a submarine navigating underwater at latitude 36 degrees 2 minutes south and longitude 53 degrees 52 minutes west. The model and nationality of the submarine, however, could not be determined.

It must be clarified that according to national and international law the submarine was navigating in free waters, and was not engaged in tasks that might affect our economy.

Venezuela

Technical Police Director Lists Car Bomb Suspects

PA1010040893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Oct 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Orlando Jordan Petit, Judicial Technical Police director, has listed the names of the seven suspects arrested within the last few hours and announced the completion of the investigation into the death of (Mario Pati).

[Begin Jordan recording] The names of the suspects arrested are: Gustavo Jose Mancera, an attorney and financial consultant to Alvaro Campin; Ibrahin Jose Velutini Sosa, an economist and director of the firm Serfincorp; Oliver Alas Torres, an administrator and president of the Financial Services Corporation, which is located at the Tamanaco Commercial Mall; Danilo Diaz Granados, an administrator and vice president of Visa Union Bank; Alvaro Camejo Campins, an economist and head director and president of the firm (Asfaptrol); and Andres Rodriguez Ghersi, an economist working at Financial Services CCT., which processes loans and provides advisory services on import and export stocks; also.... [pauses]

First, let me say that these people are under arrest and pending the investigation, of which we are all aware. If, within the next few hours or days, it is proven that one of these people is not involved in this case, they will be released and you will be advised. [end recording]

Jordan also reported that (Thor Halvorsen) continues to be under arrest, given the growing evidence against him. He denied any connections between (Lopez Sisco) and (Halvorsen) and between the deaths of (Pati) and (Fanelli). He stated that no evidence has been found to suggest this.

Jordan said that he expects to arrest naval explosives expert Cabrize, who has managed to avoid capture, within the coming hours. Jordan affirmed that they are closing in.

Soldiers Arrested in Connection With Attacks

PA1110142593 Paris AFP in Spanish 2128 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Caracas, 10 Oct (AFP)—President Ramon J. Velasquez announced in Caracas that three soldiers, who presumably sold the explosives that were used to perpetrate a wave of attacks in Venezuela in July and August, were arrested today. Judicial Technical Police Chief Orlando Jordan Petit confirmed that the detainees are two National Guard corporals and one naval master ordnance officer. Jordan Petit he added that one of the top financial managers arrested the day before was released due to a lack of firm evidence against him.

With the arrest of the three soldiers and the release of Venezuelan financier Alvaro Campins, president of Asfatrol Company, the number of people connected to the bomb attacks has increased to 15. Most of the detainees are linked to Venezuela's financial sector, but Jordan Petit dismissed the possibility that a particular economic group is involved in the case.

The eight attacks, one of them a car bomb explosion at a Caracas shopping center that destroyed 20 vehicles, have caused no casualties but have created considerable uncertainty and instability. According to preliminary police theories, the attacks were intended to create financial chaos to make currency, foreign debt bonds, and stock market prices drop so they could be bought at low prices and later resold at higher prices when the market had stabilized. Authorities are also considering alleged ties between the detainees and sectors interested in creating political instability.

National Convergence Movement Offers Support

PA0910220693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] The National Convergence Movement has offered its support to President Ramon Jose Velasquez' administrative efforts up to the 5 December elections. Representatives of this political group explained that the actions being carried out by the president deserve their total support while they voiced their approval to the national agreement for which the president has called; in addition, they stated they would respect the election results, no matter who wins. Here is what Edecio la Riva Araujo, Convergence representative, said:

[Begin Riva recording] I believe it will serve as a strong foundation and in turn will give support, security, and trust to the new government. The election outcome will be respected by all; we will have to face up to big problems. Given his experience in these past months, President Velasquez has pointed out to us these problems and their seriousness, but together we can resolve these problems. [end recording]

The National Convergence Movement leaders also outright rejected the ominous voices that in no way contribute to appeasing the nation.

Special Operation Dismantles Money Laundering Band

PA0810135493 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[From "The Observer" newscast]

[Text] The Armed Forces of National Cooperation [FAC] have concluded that drug traffickers laundered as much as 19 billion bolivares in Venezuela in recent years. The FAC reached this conclusion after an operation that has led to 120 arrests linked to money laundering activities in Tachira, Merida, Zulia, Bolivar, and Caracas so far. Here is an exclusive report by Rena Camacho from Tachira:

[Begin recording] [Camacho] A money laundering organization that operated throughout the country was dismantled during a special FAC operation. General German Varela, commander of Zone No. 1, will give details on the arrests and seizures made in this case.

[Varela] The FAC has concluded operations aimed at dismantling an organization, which engaged in money laundering activities involving nearly $200 million for two years. In Merida and Tachira, specifically, a total of 40 people were arrested in this case while personal property worth approximately 800 million bolivares was seized. [end recording]

VAT Application Continues To Generate Controversy

PA0910190093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Excerpt] The disagreements regarding the application of the Value-Added Tax [VAT] continue. Nevertheless, the controversial tax, criticized by diverse sectors, will abound in substantial improvements in public services. After long working days the IDEC [expansion unknown] continues applying fines on businessmen who arbitrarily charge VAT on products that are exempt. Those businessmen who have failed to comply with the measure of waiting until next year to charge consumers the tax, have been fined up to 300,000 bolivares. Here is what Leyder de Gonzalez, IDEC, president said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What will be done with the funds collected as fines from the businessmen who speculate with the VAT?

[Gonzalez] Those that correspond to the IDEC will go to the Treasury. The Treasury in turn should use these funds to improve basic services, infrastructure, education, and of course contribute to the education budget. [end recording] [passage omitted]

AD Candidate Fermin Interview

PA0710151393

[Editorial Report] Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 4 October broadcasts a live interview with Democratic Action, AD, presidential candidate Claudio Fermin by host Marcel Granier during the regularly scheduled one-hour "Front Page" interview program at the station studios in Caracas.

The interview begins with Fermin explaining why his proposals are different from traditional AD policies. Fermin says his party has always proposed new paths for the country whenever the situation has warranted it. Granier then asks Fermin why his proposal for economic modernization and openness differs from the ones made by Social Christian Party presidential candidate Oswaldo Alvarez Paz and candidate and former President Rafael Caldera. Fermin answers: "I support a profound exploitation of our natural wealth. What is the value of gold, oil, thousands of kilometers of coasts, or the country's food reserves if we do not exploit them? This kind of inaction regarding our resources, which we have although we are a poor country, is one of the greatest possible paradoxes. These are the indispensable premises for our country's future: a profound exploitation of our wealth without hesitation or inhibition; an open, unconditional call for foreign capital and technology; and making citizens the owners of their resources so they do not have to manage them through the state, which may be inefficient."

Asked what he proposes for the oil industry, Fermin says Venezuela's public services are not able to fully meet the people's demands. After noting that everyone would like to have better agricultural and livestock infrastructure and wages as well as a more modern country, he says it annoys him to see that the same people who are pressing for better services and wages are opposed to modernization and progress. He says oil is the only stable source of revenue the country has had, yet Petroven [Venezuelan Petroleum] is made "to pay more taxes. Why? To pay for a bloated bureaucracy that goes nowhere." He adds: "Venezuela should not lower its capacity to meet demand, therefore Petroven must become a big company. It must increase its capacity to recover inactive wells, increase exploration in eastern Venezuela, and acquire markets abroad. Petroven cannot do that now with only the money from its modest profits." He thinks Venezuelans should be allowed to own stock in Petroven and that foreign investments must be sought.

Discussing the billions of bolivares lost in the Venezuelan Guayana Corporation, CVG, and in the aluminum industry, Fermin says he plans to tell the people the truth. He finds it unbelievable that the country is not seeking partners while aluminum prices are down abroad. He says he supports opening the country's enterprises to local and foreign investors. While admitting that CVG investments have served to build Guayana City and maintain a public infrastructure, he supports opening Guayana's industrial enterprises to all private investors.

Granier voices his concern that the Armed Forces are constantly being harassed, adding that "there is no institution with a cleaner record of defending and supporting democracy." He then asks Fermin to outline AD's stance on the attacks on the Armed Forces. The AD candidate says it is ridiculous that last week people argued over "an adjective or adverb used by the defense minister, or a comma or a grammatical construction." He feels attention should be focused on those who are encouraging unrest "to change the rules of the game." After noting that some people support these tactics, Fermin says that he is among those who support "consolidating democratic institutions." The AD candidate says there was a "big brouhaha because the defense minister said order was not maintained, only through the use of weapons, but that civilians and political parties bear a major responsibility."

When Garnier asks him to explain why he thinks the government has remained relatively passive in response to reports that the Cuban Government is training young Venezuelan men to spread unrest in the country, Fermin replies that he does not know if that report is true. When asked if the government has informed the candidates of this, Fermin says he has only met with President Ramon J. Velasquez once, and they talked about the national agreement proposed by the president. He adds that the president is excessively cautious "in trying to interpret the views of everyone and achieve a unanimous opinion," something that cannot be done. "I proposed to the president that we reach an agreement based on three topics: The first is to increase the country's domestic revenues because the government cannot meet the citizens' demands. More and more demands are made on the democratic system, as they should be, but no agreement is reached on the value-added tax, VAT. Nobody dares increase the price of gasoline, although the price of diesel may be frozen. No work is being done to tax business assets or impose an income tax," he states.

The second point of his proposal calls for a cut in public spending. Fermin deplores the fact that the 1994 budgets for the nation, governorships, and municipalities include the creation of more jobs when "we should be freezing personnel increases." The AD candidate supports decentralizing the government and privatizing state enterprises.

"The third specific point I proposed to the president," Fermin adds, "is the support of AD and its candidate to reach an agreement on wage increases. There is no money to raise salaries in 1993, yet people are not told so clearly." He continues: "I propose that we talks with the unions, workers, employees, businessmen, and the state to sign an agreement on wage increases for 1994 and 1995, because wages are very low. But let us tell people the truth: There is no money, and that is why we are discussing the VAT."

Following Fermin's statement that the government has failed to inform the people about VAT and create mechanisms to see that it is properly administered to prevent speculation, Granier asks him to explain what he would propose. The AD candidate replies that wholesalers and importers should be told to stop pressuring for a postponement of the tax implementation. In addition, he proposes the creation of a commission to control the tax and keep the people informed. Fermin says these preventive measures are not being taken because "too much emphasis is placed on the political and military issues." He supports the signing of a national agreement to ease the pressure for higher wages on the budget, to restructure the 1994 budget, and to increase domestic revenues. He feels the VAT and other measures, which may be taken next year, will not end the fiscal deficit. The true solution is "to reduce the size of the state and have a surplus that allows the government to function."

Granier tells Fermin that AD is in fourth place in the opinion polls, although he has the impression that most people feel more affection for AD than the polls reveal. Granier wonders if people are ashamed to say they are AD supporters or if the party has lost the people's support. Fermin answer that only by growing in the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mining, tourism, service, and forestry sectors will Venezuela be able to generate jobs, as every Venezuelan wants.

I have supported decentralization, he indicates. "Many people agree with that. I would dare say the majority agree with it. I have said that a generation that has been well trained in public service should be given a chance. I ask the people to vote for me if they agree with my views," Fermin adds. The candidate favors earmarking more public funds for low-income sectors. "I feel fine, Marcel, about asking people for their support to implement these actions," he says.

Fermin says that other candidates, who claim to be leading the polls, have not visited the country as he has. "They have not felt as I have the affection and support of the people," he states. He argues that polls do not reflect the support of the people or their enthusiasm for his candidacy as more people realize the AD candidate is speaking clearly and analyzing the country's problems. He asserts that his candidacy is strong, adding: "I must say, I have an excellent chance of becoming president."